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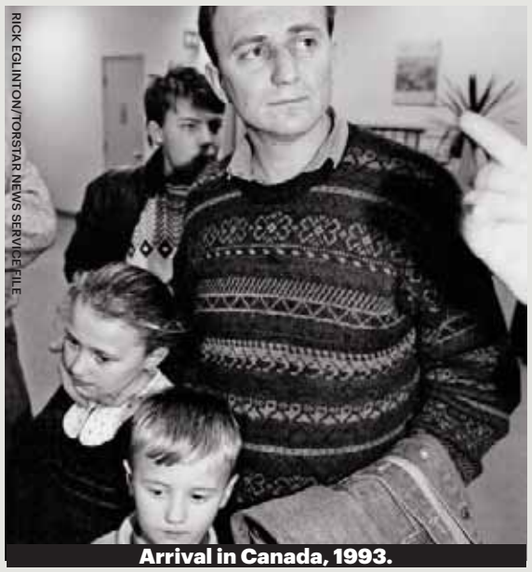

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Arrival in Canada, 1993.

LIZ BROWN/METRO TORONTO

New hometown of Oakville, Ont., 2015.

MELITA'S STORY

Metro's Melita Kuburas arrived in Canada as a refugee 22 years ago. Today people ask her, Why the rush to bring in so many Syrians? — 'As if anybody deserves to spend another night on a dirt floor.' **HER FULL STORY IN metroNEWS**

Refugee plan backtrack

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN CANADA

Exit visas, city preparations cited as delay factors

The Liberals will miss their self-imposed deadline to resettle 25,000 refugees by the end of the year, instead pledging to meet the target by the end of February 2016.

The government will also count privately sponsored refugees against the total goal of 25,000 people, as well as any Syrian refugee who has arrived in Canada since Nov. 1. The government expects 10,000 will be privately sponsored — 40 per cent of its goal.

Officials cite several challenges, including getting exit visas from host countries and ensuring Canadian communities are able to accommodate the refugees, as factors for pushing back the deadline.

In a media briefing today, officials said the government still intends to get the refugees to Canada as quickly as possible, but conceded that 15,000 are expected to have to wait until the first weeks of the new year.

"Yes, we want to bring them fast, but we also want to do it right," said John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, speaking at a press conference Tuesday. McCallum said Canadians will welcome refugees "with a smile, but a smile alone is not sufficient."

The overall plan is expected to cost as much as $687 million over six years, with the bulk of the money spent in the first two years. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REACTION IN TORONTO

'Disappointing but understandable.'
RATNA OMIDVAR, ON THE SHIFTING REFUGEE TARGET

More coverage on pages 11, 13 & 19

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metro NEWS

A first-of-its-kind program in Hamilton reunites pets with owners in hospital. **Canada**

One of the black cats on offer.
CONTRIBUTED

PETS

Black cat Friday at shelter

Mallory Chate
For Metro | Toronto

The City of Toronto's Animal Services department is holding a Black Friday sale of its own.

The adoption fees on cats or kittens with any black colouring are being waived until Sunday at all three of the city's animal shelters. Mary Lou Leirher, program manager at Toronto Animal Services, said shelters are overwhelmed with cats and the sale is an effort to help them find loving homes.

According to Leirher, black cats are less likely to be adopted than their more colourful colleagues.

She believes everything from superstitions to the fact black cats just don't pop out as much behind their steel cages keep them from finding permanent homes.

However, she said most black cat owners she's spoken with boast about their pets' great personalities.

Leirher said the Black Friday campaign is TAS' most popular promotion.

Artist corners market on reimagined street signs

INTERSECTIONS

Toronto man's creative take on our city's road markers

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

One Toronto artist wants to make sure the city's iconic, acorn-style street signs are not completely erased from our memories.

Raj Gupta has been creating and selling pieces of art that depict the old street signs at some of the city's famous intersections. Since he set up shop on Etsy late last year, he said, orders haven't stopped coming in.

According to Gupta, the project is an attempt to pay homage to the street corners that are near and dear to Torontonians in different ways.

"Toronto is one of those cities that is very inspirational," said Gupta, who moved here four years ago from Dubai.

The initial idea came after hearing of the plan to phase out the acorn-shaped street signs.

Raj Gupta
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

But Gupta said he's long been captivated by Toronto's numerous — and unique —neighbourhoods.

"There is a lot of neighbourhood pride," he said, adding people want to take a part of their neighbourhood with them wherever they go.

Take Kensington Market, for example, he said. It's known for its colourful bohemian culture.

High Park

Each of the paintings has something to say about an area.
CONTRIBUTED

makes people think of the cherry blossoms. When you say Bloor and Bathurst, Honest Ed's comes to mind immediately.

His work tries to match those distinctive elements to the street signs he creates.

"Those are timeless things. Whatever happens, those neighbourhoods will be remembered as such," he said.

Gupta has painted signs for a dozen street corners, most of them covering the west end and the downtown core.

He also has plans to explore the east end of the city and the suburbs.

"At one point I thought I'd just stop with the project, but the appetite from the community has grown," he said. "It'll take me quite a long time to cover every part of the city, that's for sure."

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HUDSON'S BAY

Our TODAY ONLY Wednesday, November 25th Calvin Klein AD incorrectly stated the down to feather fill ratio in two of the styles advertised. The Calvin Klein white coat featured on the far left of the ad, style number 0060-CWH17531 and style number 0060-CWH17531-B have a 50% down / 50% feather fill. We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

IN BRIEF

Police arrest one, seek second hit-and-run suspect
Toronto police say they have arrested one suspect and are searching for a second involved in an early morning hit and run in Scarborough Tuesday. Toronto police and paramedics were called to McCowan Road and Kenhatch Boulevard just south of Finch Avenue East at 6 a.m. A male pedestrian attempting to cross the street was struck by a northbound vehicle and was pronounced dead on scene, according to police. Police say the vehicle fled the scene but was located a short distance away. Two males were seen running away from the vehicle. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Contractor dies on job
A male contractor is dead after what police suspect is an electrocution from working on power lines in Thornhill on Tuesday. York Regional Police were called to the scene on the Highway 7 between Dufferin and Langstaff Roads, around 10 a.m. Tuesday. The man was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Slick roads cause collisions
Icy road conditions kept emergency crews in Toronto busy Tuesday morning as reports of collisions sprung up across the city. Overnight flurries left roads icy as temperatures hovered around freezing. Conditions were particularly treacherous near bridges, with several multi-vehicle collisions reported. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Despite clearly posted warnings, **people have been skating on Grenadier Pond for years.** Even as far back as 1919. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Grenadier Pond skaters on thin ice, says city hall

RECREATION

Activities on High Park water carry $125 penalty

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Hold on to your skates. It will be at least one more winter before Grenadier Pond opens for skating without penalty.

But, after much debate, city council is poised to at least consider creating a $50,000 ice-monitoring program that would reopen the High Park pond to the skating and shinny-playing masses.

The money would pay for an engineer to regularly test the thickness and quality of ice. A coloured flag system would be used to indicate when the pond's good to go.

Council will consider creating the system next month and, if approved, talk about including money in the 2016 budget. That means nothing's likely to change until 2017.

"The biggest concern right now is we're not testing," Ward 13 Coun. Sarah Doucette said. "It is dangerous to skate when ice is thin, but people have been ignoring the warning signs for years."

Skating on Grenadier Pond was permitted for years because the city monitored the ice. But, in 2001, staff from the police service's marine unit advised ice on ponds should be considered unstable and unsafe.

The city passed a bylaw prohibiting skating and other recreational activities on frozen bodies of water in city parks. The fine for violating is presently $125.

Despite that, many people still use Grenadier at their own risk and there haven't been any reports of serious problems. In 2003 someone broke an ankle while skating and sued the city for damages. A judge dropped the case in 2009 without award.

Doucette said it's important to let people enjoy skating, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on the pond. At the same time, she wants to make sure they're doing it safely and free of charge.

> **People have been ignoring the warning signs for years.**
> Sarah Doucette

"We have a lot of great ice rinks around the city, but I guess Grenadier has been too tempting," Doucette said. "I look forward to watching everyone skate on it without covering my eyes worrying someone is about to issue a hefty ticket."

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Weed and wine, pot and porter

MARIJUANA

Advocates and experts debate a monopoly at the LCBO

Stocking marijuana alongside alcohol at the LCBO is the best way to protect public health, say addiction experts. But for many advocates, it's more of the same prohibition.

In a statement released Monday, the union representing LCBO workers said the provincially owned stores are the ideal place to sell marijuana, should the federal government go through with legalizing it.

"If they do legalize it, then it's a drug," said Warren (Smokey) Thomas. "So we think that, like alcohol, it should be controlled."

Thomas, president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, said secure warehouses and staff trained to check ages are some of the reasons the LCBO should be the sole source of legal pot, as it is with most alcohol.

The scheme would also generate revenue for the government to combat the potential social costs. But marijuana advocates say those costs and the spectre of public danger are overblown.

"Our view of course has always been that marijuana is one of the safest drugs," said Blair Longley, the leader of the federal Marijuana Party. Longley maintains the drug should be proportionately restricted based on its danger. So ideally, he said, anyone should be free to grow and use the plant with informed consent.

Hugo St-Onge, leader of Quebec's Bloc Pot party, agrees that government stores are not the way forward. "We need to stop comparing marijuana to alcohol," he said. "Marijuana should have its own model, its own system."

He prefers a food-model regulatory system, with sales done in a similar fashion to Amsterdam's cafés.

Benedikt Fischer is a senior scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). The organization released a legalization framework in 2014 that called for a government monopoly on sales and distribution.

> **It's not any worse, slightly better, than coffee.**
> Blair Longley

"We believe that it's the safest and most predictable system that will work toward the interests of public health," said Fischer. He added government control is needed to keep private interests at bay.

When it comes to alcohol sales, commercialization associated with private sales "is associated with increases in levels of use," according to Rebecca Jesseman with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

"Cannabis is not a benign substance," said Jesseman.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fireworks rain down from the CN Tower last summer to mark the end of the Pan Am Games. The city took a step toward staging more tower displays Tuesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

CANADA'S 150TH

A fireworkable plan for 2017

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The CN Tower is one step closer to being turned into a really tall candle to mark Canada's 150th birthday.

A committee of city councillors directed staff Tuesday to look into the feasibility of staging a fireworks show atop the country's tallest structure.

If approved, the plan would see fireworks launched from the tower on Jan. 1, 2017, in honour of Canada's sesquicentennial.

The motion was brought forward by Coun. Jim Karygiannis.

In a separate vote Tuesday, councillors on the economic development committee asked city staff about hosting an annual fireworks display at Nathan Phillips Square on Canada Day, beginning in 2016.

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David Price gestures during a team workout at Rogers Centre in October. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fans want to sweeten deal

DAVID PRICE

Unusual offers to keep free agent pitcher at Blue Jays

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

If pitcher David Price agrees signs with the Blue Jays again this year, he'll have a fan ready and waiting to wash his Jays bathrobe every day.

Plus, there will be one willing to make him homemade dumplings before every home game and quite a few prepared to walk his dog, Astro.

Some more risqué and unusual offers are rolling in too.

Price, who was instrumental in the Jays' late-season performance this year, is a free agent, and it's rumoured he may stay in Toronto if the contract he's offered is good enough.

That's why Torontonian Laurent Abesdris, along with a group of friends, created anypricefordavid.com, where Jays fans can register their names and services available to help top up a potential offer.

The site is automatically drawing up a continuously updated "contract" listing the services, and, at some point, Abesdris plans to send it to Price's agent.

"The thought was, sure he's going to get offered a huge contract by the Jays' organization, but what can we as a fan base do to sweeten the deal?" Abesdris said.

Some of Abesdris' favourite offers are the cheeky ones: Bell subscribers saying they're willing to switch to Rogers "with chagrin" and someone claiming to be Adam Sandler offering to stop making movies.

"I like the earnest ones as well," Abesdri said. "I love that people are offering to do really wonderful things for him, like walk his dog, to give his left hand massages before every game, to cook him dinner and people offering sexual favours. It's all pretty gravy."

UP FOR GRABS

These are some of the "contract clauses" so far:

- Give David Price a ride in a 1966 Corvette.
- Feed the pitcher lasagna made by someone's mother.
- Someone's willing to get a Price tattoo.
- Another person will shave one half of their face (eyebrows and all).
- Retrofit the CN Tower to send popcorn directly onto the Rogers Centre field, a reference to Price's love of the stadium's popcorn.

METRO

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Climate plan lacks new meat: Critics

The release of Ontario's long-term strategy to fight climate change is being denounced by critics as containing little new information about the Liberal government's goals or how it plans to achieve them.

The Liberals say details will come in a five-year action plan and in rules and regulations for its planned cap-and-trade system, which will all come later.

Their long-term climate "master plan" highlights many measures the government has already taken, such as shutting down coal-fired plants, and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets it has already set.

The strategy broadly envisions a low-carbon economy, a carbon-neutral government sector, more energy efficient buildings and more electric vehicles on the roads.

NDP critic Peter Tabuns called the climate change strategy "a re-announcement of an announcement to come" and suggested the Liberals wanted to capitalize on the attention that Alberta's newly released climate change plan received.

The province plans to achieve an 80 per cent reduction in emissions over 1990 levels by 2050. In the new year, Ontario will detail its five-year "action plan" to achieve a 15 per cent reduction in emissions over 1990 levels by 2020.

Consultations on the cap-and-trade rules and regulations should be finished by the spring and the first auction is expected in the first quarter of 2017, Environment Minister Glen Murray has said.

The province plans to link its carbon trade system with ones in California and Quebec, and estimates the plan could bring in $2 billion a year in revenue for the Ontario government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police dog attacked with machete

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Man charged, canine officer on the mend

A man is facing charges after he allegedly cut the neck of a Toronto Police Service dog.

Lonca, the one-year-old dog, was with officers as they carried out a search warrant related to an illegal gaming operation investigation on Monday, according to a police statement.

After officers entered a home near Selnac Rd. and Churchill Ave., southeast of Bathurst St. and Finch Ave. W., a man ran from the house carrying a large machete. The statement said the man was ordered to drop the knife, but he refused.

Officers deployed Lonca and the man subsequently "chopped" at the dog's neck.

Lonca was rushed to an emergency veterinary hospital to be treated for neck injuries. As a result of the cuts, he received multiple stitches.

Police were able to subdue and arrest the man.

Phuoc Dang, 56, of Toronto is charged with possession of the proceeds of crime, injuring/wounding an animal and weapons dangerous.

Officers also charged two other individuals in relation to the illegal gaming operation investigation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

UPDATE

Police shared via Twitter that Lonca is expected to be back at work in approximately a week.

Lonca, a Toronto Police Service dog TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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METROLINX

IAN PRYCE

Inquest to be held into teen's death

Two years after he was shot dead by Toronto police during a standoff downtown, the Ontario government announced Tuesday it will hold an inquest into the death of Ian Pryce.

Long awaiting information about her son's final hours, Heather Thompson believes she may now get some closure.

"I have mixed feelings about this," Thompson said in an interview Tuesday, saying it's going to be difficult to listen to the details of her son's death.

"But I'm doing it so that I can move on."

Pryce, 30, was killed by two unnamed Toronto police officers on Nov. 13, 2013 near Sherbourne and Carlton Sts., after a standoff with the Toronto police Emergency Task Force. Thompson says her son had been living with schizophrenia for more than a decade.

According to the province's Special Investigation's Unit — the civilian watchdog that probes deaths involving police — Pryce was wielding a weapon resembling a firearm, though police later discovered it was not real.

"In the aftermath of the incident, it was discovered that the man was actually armed with a pellet gun, not a genuine firearm," Tony Loparco, director of the SIU, said in a statement in January.

Loparco ruled there were no grounds to criminally charge the officers involved in Pryce's death. The officers "acted in the reasonable belief that the lives of their team members and other officers were in imminent peril," he wrote.

Ontario's ministry of community safety announced the inquest would be held, but did not specify when. Under the province's Coroners Act, a death that occurs during a police detention warrants a mandatory inquest.

Thompson said she hopes the inquiry will help prevent similar fatal encounters.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Heather Thompson poses for a photo holding a photo of her and her son Ian Pryce.
MARTA IWANEK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Richmond Hill man faces drunk driving charges

A man who called police for assistance to get his car started has been arrested early Tuesday morning for drunk driving near Bathurst St. and King Road in King Township.

Andrew Scuglia, 27, of Richmond Hill, has been charged with impaired driving after officers who arrived to help him discovered he was intoxicated, and blew over the legal limit of alcohol, according to York Regional Police. At around 2:30 a.m., YRP received a non-emergency call from the driver where the engine could be heard revving in the background, according to the police.

When officers arrived on the scene, the car was running with "lights and windshield wipers on."

YRP encourages everyone who believes that a motorist is impaired by drugs or alcohol to call 911, especially during the festive season.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RESETTLEMENT

City waits on feds to take planning lead

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Toronto is still waiting on the federal government to say how many Syrian refugees are coming to the city, and when.

But the federal government's decision to delay the process — bringing in 10,000 people by the end of December and 15,000 more over the following two months — means a lot less strain on resources, said Chris Brillinger, Toronto's executive director of social development, finance and administration.

The city has set aside $600,000 for refugee resettlement but, as officials wait on information from upper levels of government, details have not been worked out.

"We have yet to understand, in terms of 10,000 by the end of the year, how many of those 10,000 will make their way to Toronto," said Brillinger. "So, we're interested in working with our colleagues federally and provincially to get a better handle on that."

The biggest issue is housing, he said, but many of the first refugees expected to arrive will have private sponsors who have made living arrangements for them.

Emergency shelters or interim lodging sites for government-sponsored refugees are managed by other levels of government, Brillinger noted. So, the city's focus will be on providing money to agencies that can help refugees find permanent homes.

Mayor John Tory released a statement Tuesday evening welcoming the federal announcement.

"These newcomers will not impact existing wait lists for housing, child care and other city services," Tory said in the statement. "It is also clear that this influx of refugees will put a strain on local resettlement agencies and support services across the country."

> **These newcomers will not impact existing wait lists.**
> Mayor John Tory

Extended deadline is 'disappointing'

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN CANADA

Sponsors were gearing up to offer their aid

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The government's decision to extend the deadline for resettling all 25,000 Syrian refugees is "disappointing but understandable," said Ratna Omidvar of Toronto-based Lifeline Syria.

"Private sponsors like me were gearing up to receive these people by end of the year," Omidvar said.

The delay could mean more danger for the Syrians still trapped in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and many other countries in the region, she said. The push to bring refugees in by January had brought some hope for their safety and warmth, especially since cold weather is setting in, she said.

Since the terrorist attacks in Paris, it's only reasonable to take more time to make the process better, said Omidvar, a global diversity exchange professor at Ryerson University.

"I'm very pleased that the promise is not off the table, unlike our neighbours to the south," she said.

Lifeline Syria has about 1,200 private sponsors signed up, and many of them are in the process of being matched with refugees. At least 20 Syrian refugees have already arrived in Toronto through those sponsorships.

Lifeline's goal is to bring at least 1,000 people to Toronto before the end of 2016, and Omidvar is confident that can still happen.

"Even with this delay, the difference in tone from the previous government is incredible," she said.

Left: As cold weather sets in, those trying to help Syrian refugees fret about conditions in camps like this one in Turkey. Above: Ratna Omidvar, of Lifeline Syria's steering committee. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE/GETTY IMAGES

ASSIMILATION

Speech expert offers his help

A speech pathologist in Toronto is offering his services for free to Syrian refugees arriving in the city.

"I mean why not?" said Kanwar Anit Singh Saini. "I could give money or clothes or food, but beyond that I have this skill set I can offer."

Saini, 34, works as a language and speech pathologist for the Durham Regional School Board. He helps children overcome speech and language difficulties, and assists their parents in navigating the provincial health-care system.

Kanwar Anit Singh Saini
CONTRIBUTED

He says both of those skills can be useful to newcomers, especially children.

"Language is so important," he said. "It gives children access to the social world they'll be living in and helps them access the curriculum they'll be learning at school."

Saini plans to host workshops in Toronto where Syrian families can learn strategies to help their children acquire English skills and get help accessing health care or other support.

"The most I can do is offer the skills I already have. It's a very Canadian thing to do," he said. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

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‘We were one of the lucky ones’

As the country prepares to welcome thousands of Syrian refugees, a Metro editor recalls how her family built a happy life in Canada after escaping a war zone

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

For years I’ve treasured this clipped-out newspaper photograph of my family taken just moments after we arrived in Canada. My dad, at the age of 35, only three years older than I am now, has his right arm curled protectively around me and my little brother, nine and five years old at the time.

In the photo he looks like someone anticipating a better life, one he would grant us.

He had just been released from concentration camp at Manjaca in northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he was imprisoned for six months. Starved, beaten, kept from his family for nothing more than being Muslim.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government announced details about its ambitious plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees over the next three months. Many have criticized the haste — why the rush? they ask. As if any mother and child deserve to spend another night in a tent on a dirt floor.

A softening of the Liberals’ initial promise is disappointing, but at least there’s a commitment to welcome newcomers with urgency. There’s so much desperation in the camps abroad. Perhaps a family’s name is on an immigration list, but it’s a promise that can be yanked away at any moment. In my family’s case, the offer to come to Canada was unreal up until the moment we landed here, when aspirations became concrete.

The question for me, then, isn’t why the rush, but is there good enough reason to make them wait?

We were among 46 government-assisted refugees who arrived from the former Yugoslavia that day, Jan. 24, 1993, and many more would follow — almost 16,000 over the next four years, who, like us, didn’t have a home to go back to. The breakup of the socialist union led to a fight over Bosnian territory, turning into a bloody war that gained notoriety for “ethnic cleansing.” It ended with more than 100,000 deaths, over a third of them civilians.

We were one of the lucky ones, and it’s not something we took for granted.

* * *

“Too generous.”

These words are used to describe Canada’s refugee policy on the Letters page in The Star on Nov. 8, 1993. They are echoed by critics this week in the comments section on any story about incoming Syrians.

Welcoming refugees is very generous of Canada, and of Canadians, but I can assure you: refugees are not freeloading. They are not “collecting cheques” and living lavishly. In fact, I recognize now in our first few years here what I failed to see back then — poverty.

We lived in temporary housing, a motel, for about a month in Toronto after arriving. Then we rented a two-bedroom apartment in Mississauga, the size that suited our four-person family for about a decade, until we were finally able to buy a two-storey house in Oakville.

Much of our apartment in those early years was furnished by items placed curbside by neighbours on garbage day. (“Do you have to write that in your article?” my mother asks now.)

> **“Welcoming refugees is very generous of Canada, and of Canadians, but I can assure you: refugees are not freeloading.**

I remember her washing other people’s carpets on our balcony, which were afterwards laid out on our floors.

My brother and I played Nintendo on a wooden-encased TV set that had a Lazy Bones remote — a discarded 1950s relic, I presume.

There was a No Frills at the plaza just around the corner from our building, but if milk happened to be on sale at Knob Hill Farms, an old supermarket chain at the discount mall across town, my parents would bike there to shop. The savings would have been negated by bus fare, so they biked 25 minutes each way to make it worthwhile.

I smile at this story now whenever I stop at Whole Foods because it’s on my way home from work.

Their bicycles were also salvaged from the scrapheap. My dad would come to pick me up at school with his, until I sheepishly asked him if next time he could leave the bike at home. I guess that what my mom finds embarrassing now, I was ashamed of back then. We were on assistance for about a year until they both found jobs, my dad as an electrician and my mom as a cashier until she went back to school for her trade in accounting.

Though they soon found work, we couldn’t afford a car until two years later, when my dad bought an ’86 blue Cutlass Ciera.

So this is not me complaining; these are not the painful memories, though there are plenty of those from back home: the men in uniforms, pointing a gun at me while demanding money (“Surely you love her the most,” one had contemptuously said); the grandfather and favourite uncle who were killed, and whom I would never see again; the melancholy that takes over whenever I think back to the sharp interruption of an otherwise happy childhood.

In contrast, our family’s struggles in our new home — learning a language, getting a job, trying to fit in at school — were welcome ones. Integration comes quickly, and it did for us.

Like most government-sponsored refugees, we had to refund the cost of our trip to Canada and initial startup expenses, taking on a debt of $3,5-00 right upon arrival. My dad sees that as fair: “It offered someone else a turn to come here.”

Melita encourages readers to contact her directly at: melita.kuburas@metronews.ca

Bosnian refugee tells of odyssey to freedom

By Allan Thompson
TORONTO STAR

For Senad Kuburas and his wife, Edina, the journey through darkness began just before dawn May 31, when the Serbs started shelling their little village of Biljani in northern Bosnia.

“The shelling lasted for two hours. Those who weren’t killed fled to a bush on the edge of town,” Kuburas, a Muslim shopkeeper, recounted yesterday through an interpreter.

Kuburas and his family were among 46 Bosnian refugees to arrive at Pearson International Airport last night to begin new lives in Metro. Through a special program announced last November, Canada accepted 500 refugees from the former Yugoslavia, men who spent months in Serb-run detention camps before being reunited with their families by the Red Cross.

Senad and Edina Kuburas are in Toronto now. With the children, they will spend the next three weeks in an immigration Canada reception house to begin integrating into Canadian society. Counsellors from the immigration department — as well as local Bosnian relief agencies — will help.

The new life in Canada lies ahead, but last night their thoughts were still in Bosnia.

“The same day as the shelling, the Serbs went around with loudspeakers, telling all Muslims to give up their weapons. We didn’t have much anyway, only shotguns and rifles that be-

A NEW LIFE: Senad Kuburas, with daughter Melita and son Moldan, hopes to find a job soon in Canada. Kuburas spent months in a Serb-run camp in Bosnia.

they were returned to their houses, then they killed them there.

“It was hot, and we stayed in the truck without moving for three and a half hours. They told us anyone to leave the truck would be shot. When the trucks finally left, we saw we were heading east. We felt some relief in knowing we wouldn’t be killed on the spot.

“At Manjaca, the camp, which is really just a government farm, they told us to give them all our belongings, gold watches, and that if they found anything we’d be prosecuted. As we got off the truck, the same man was hitting everyone with a piece of wood,” Kuburas said.

All the men were then stripped down to their underwear, he said.

“When we had our clothes off, they beat us again. They separated us in different groups and put us in different buildings. Mine had just a bare cement floor. They gave us our clothes back, but that’s all we had.”

Kuburas spent two months in the camp, along with hundreds of other men, enduring daily beatings, consuming mostly bread and water, watching friends die, beaten to death.

“I’ve seen friends, man who were with us, beaten to death. Omer Silajevic, he was one. Emil Bender, another. I tell you their names so you know I am telling the truth,” Kuburas said.

He said the Red Cross went to his camp in late summer, and

A page from the Toronto Star, published on Jan. 25, 1993, shows a young Melita Kuburas and her family arriving at Pearson Airport as government-assisted refugees from the former Yugoslavia. CONTRIBUTED

From the archives ...

The following are excerpts from the original story about the Kuburas family’s tribulations in the former Yugoslavia, as well as their arrival in Canada — published Jan. 25, 1993, in the Toronto Star:

“I was taken to a place where they asked me what I owned, then sent me home,” (Senad) Kuburas said. “But a week later they came back, came to my house saying they had an order to search.

“They pushed my wife and children into the corner of the room. A man with a shotgun pointed it at my father, and told me to hand over all our money, our deutschmarks. I had only 150 and he didn’t believe that was all I had. He put a gun to my daughter’s head and said he would shoot her if I didn’t give more money.

...

“He told me another group of soldiers was coming, and that they were going to kill me. I panicked, sent my wife and kids to the neighbour’s house.

“Then the soldiers came and knocked on my door. They told me to come out. We came out, me and my old father. They said, ‘Leave the old man here.’”

Kuburas said he never saw his father again.

...

Kuburas spent two months in the camp, along with hundreds of other men, enduring daily beatings, consuming mostly bread and water, watching friends die, beaten to death.

...

“The Red Cross asked us if we wanted to go from the camps. We’d heard so much about Canada. Canada was taking people with families,” he said.

“We were told Canada is a big country, only 27 million people, so it still needs population there.”

Former Toronto Star reporter **Allan Thompson.** CONTRIBUTED

Journey through history

I was on my laptop last Wednesday, sharing a column about the prospect of welcoming Syrian refugees in Canada’s small towns, when an email message landed out of the blue.

Melita Kuburas, an editor at Metro Toronto, was getting in touch to ask about a story I’d written for the Toronto Star more than two decades earlier about another refugee influx. Then, it was hundreds of refugees from war-torn Bosnia, looking to make a new life in Canada.

“You interviewed my father on the day we landed in Canada,” she wrote.

I remembered the assignment in an instant. It was late in the day on Sunday, Jan. 24, 1993, when I took a cab to Pearson airport to meet with refugees from Bosnia who were arriving in Toronto to start over.

Melita and her brother were just little kids then, cowering beside their dad, Senad Kuburas, when he recounted through an interpreter the family’s horrific experiences in the Bosnian war. Looking back now, it seems the Canadian instinct to open our arms to refugees from a Muslim community in Bosnia was somehow more second nature then.

ALLAN THOMPSON

I’ve always wanted to meet the original story’s photographer, Rick Eglinton. Not only did he record a life-changing moment for us, he also captured a certain dignity in my father’s face.

EXCERPT: MELITA KUBURAS
PHOTO: LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Left to right: Health Minister Jane Philpott, John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan **announce Canada's plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees** during a press conference Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Private sponsorship a collaborative effort

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN CANADA

Cost of settling 1 refugee $12k

If you want to become a refugee sponsor, here are the steps you need to take.

WHO CAN SPONSOR A REFUGEE?
Canadians can volunteer to support an individual or a family for one year.

You can collaborate with friends, neighbours, colleagues, professional organizations and social clubs to commit the time and money required. The website of Lifeline Syria, a refugee sponsorship group, recommends private sponsors join together in groups of five or more.

"You will need to work with others to share the tasks and support the refugee family to successfully settle here," the website states. The Canadian government has temporarily exempted Syrian and Iraqi refugees from requiring refugee status before a group of five private sponsors can submit an application.

In 1979, after the Vietnam War, 7,000 Canadian faith and community groups privately sponsored a total of 29,269 refugees, thanks to a grassroots Toronto-based operation known as Operation Lifeline.

This number was out of a total of about 60,000 Indochinese eventually resettled in Canada.

COSTS, IN TIME AND MONEY
Government estimates place the cost of settling an individual refugee today at around $12,000.

A family of four will need about $25,000. Speaking to the Star in September, Lifeline Syria chair Ratna Omidvar said she thought the estimates are conservative considering what the cost of living in the GTA amounts to.

The organization's website puts the cost of housing a family of four at closer to $27,000.

But Omidvar said the money rarely becomes a problem.

"Yes, you have to raise it, but that's not difficult. You have to commit the time. That is the real commitment from private sponsors." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BACKGROUND

1 5
The number of phases of the refugee plan.

2 $687 million
The overall cost of the plan over six years.

3 500
The number of federal personnel being deployed overseas.

DEMONSTRATION

'Love doesn't have any barriers'

One cold day last January Mustafa Mawla stood at Yonge-Dundas Square with a blindfold and two signs.

One read "I am a Muslim, I am labelled as a terrorist," the other, "I trust you, Do you trust me? Give me a hug."

As his friends' cameras rolled, countless strangers approached him to do just that.

"It was very daunting in the beginning. You're kind of wondering if you're going to get hugs or not, and if someone is going to attack you or not," said Mawla, who moved to Canada from Saudi Arabia in 2001 and now studies at University of Toronto at Scarborough.

The moment was recreated on the streets of Paris days ago, by a man who identified himself as Muslim, near a vigil for victims of the recent terrorist attacks in that city.

A video of the social experiment has gone viral and proved to be a heartwarming moment in a world still reeling from the horror of those events.

Although Mawla doesn't know the man who adopted the idea in the French capital, he's touched that he too was embraced by passersby.

"He's definitely a courageous person, and I was very surprised by the reaction he received," Mawla said.

Mustafa Mawla stood blindfolded near Yonge and Dundas last winter with a sign that said "I'm a Muslim," asking strangers to trust him and give him a hug. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **It's really been an enlightening experience.**
> Mustafa Mawla

The 21-year-old said what he was originally trying to do, standing there without being able to see, was open himself up to everyone, regardless of their religion, culture or background.

"Love doesn't have any barriers or any boundaries; it can penetrate through all these borders," he said.

Even before being revived in Paris in the wake of the recent attacks, a YouTube video of Mawla shot by friends and dubbed "Blind Trust Project," was viewed around the world. It has received over two million hits on YouTube.

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HAMILTON

Dying wish granted: Hospital allows pets

Patients at a Hamilton hospital can spend time with pets thanks to a unique initiative prompted by a woman's promise to her dying nephew.

Zachary's Paws for Healing was launched by Donna Jenkins and named for her nephew, who died last year after being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Zachary Noble longed for a visit from his dog while at Juravinski Hospital and was allowed one with the help of his medical team. Before he died, Noble made his aunt, his caregiver, promise she'd work with the hospital to establish a program for companion pet visits.

"If it wasn't for the insight of that young man who was 25 years old and autistic to empathize with the other patients around him, this may have never happened," Jenkins said.

Many hospitals, including Juravinski, already have policies on pet visits, but the requirements are so arduous that they often aren't pursued, said Jenkins. That's where her organization comes in: "We do all the leg work, we do all the paperwork, we do all the contacting for the families."

Grace Campbell and Cuddles at Juravinski Hospital. COURTESY THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

After her nephew's death, Jenkins worked with a committee at the Juravinski Hospital to develop the program. It launched in September, initially only providing pet visits to patients in certain intensive and long-term care units. Two weeks ago, however, the program expanded to the entire hospital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CLIMATE TALKS

Paris summit may bring unified world response

The upcoming Paris climate summit won't result in a binding target for limiting greenhouse gas emissions below disaster-averting levels, the White House said Tuesday.

But it said the talks next week could still be a historic moment in the global fight against climate change, as it described its objectives in a media briefing.

The Obama administration said the summit will be a success if more countries agree to: limit emissions, report on their progress and set up a system that allows increasing rounds of emissions cuts over time to keep temperature growth to 2°C.

"That's important and unprecedented progress," said Paul Bodnar, senior director for climate change at the White House's National Security Council. "But (it's) still above the two-degree threshold the scientific community acknowledges is necessary to avoid the most severe aspects of climate change."

The UN climate panel says human civilization would suffer catastrophic consequences under a 4°C temperature growth that would be caused by business as usual by century's end. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec construction deeply corrupt: Probe

CHARBONNEAU REPORT

Hells Angels, Mafia problem far-reaching, report reveals

The infiltration of organized crime groups into Quebec's construction industry is far worse than originally feared, Superior Court Justice France Charbonneau said Tuesday as she released her much-awaited report.

"This investigation confirmed that there was a real problem in Quebec and that it was far more widespread than we originally believed," Charbonneau said.

She said that the Mafia and Hells Angels worked their way deep into the industry, gaining access to public and private contracts and worker's pension funds.

"A culture of impunity developed," Charbonneau said, reading from a prepared statement.

The commission heard of bribes, kickbacks, assaults and even murder.

She praised the courage of some of the 300 witnesses who testified since the inquiry began hearing testimony in September 2012.

"Contractors revealed that they were the victims of threats, intimidation and assault," she said. "Their testimony took us to the heart of our mandate."

Charbonneau also sounded a hopeful note, and said that one of the five volumes of her report contains 60 recommendations on how to clean up the construction industry.

"This report tries to address the problems with concrete solutions," she said.

Superior Court Justice France Charbonneau PAUL CHIASSON/HE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"Contractors revealed that they were the victims of threats, intimidation and assault ... their testimony took us to the heart of our mandate.** France Charbonneau

One key recommendation in the 1,600-page report is to set up an independent committee to decide on the awarding of government contracts.

Another recommendation is for better whistleblower protection.

"Whistle-blowing must not be seen as an act of betrayal," she said.

She noted that New York State' has a False Claims Act, which makes companies and individuals liable for defrauding the government.

The report was posted online Wednesday. Some of the testimony won't be made public because of publication bans, Charbonneau said. She did not take questions after delivering the prepared statement.

Charbonneau and her co-commissioner, former Quebec auditor general Renaud Lachance, did not have the power to assign guilt.

They were allowed to assign "blame" to companies and individuals in their examination of systemic corruption in the province's building industry. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Seven killed in attack at Egypt hotel

MIDDLE EAST

ISIL in Sinai takes credit for fatal car bombing

A brazen militant attack involving a suicide car bombing and claimed by the Islamic State group targeted a hotel in Egypt's restive northern Sinai region on Tuesday, killing seven people, including two judges, the state MENA news agency said.

The attack on the Swiss Inn hotel in the coastal city of El-Arish was the latest violence convulsing the troubled peninsula, where Egyptian troops are struggling to put down an Islamic insurgency. The attack was quickly claimed by the Islamic State's affiliate based in Sinai.

The assault came a day after Egypt held the second round of parliamentary elections. Judges who supervised the vote in Sinai were staying in the heavily guarded hotel.

MENA's report said four policemen and a civilian were also among the seven killed, and that at least 10 people were wounded. The agency cited an unnamed security official as it often does.

The Sinai branch of the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted by sympathizers on social media accounts. It said the attack was carried out by two militants: the suicide car bomber and a gunman, who is alleged to have opened fire inside the hotel before blowing himself up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emergency personnel and security forces stand next to ambulances outside the Swiss Inn hotel in the Egyptian town of El-Arish following an attack on the hotel Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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ISRAEL

No U.S. recognition of settlements

A new spat emerged between the Israeli government and Washington over Jewish settlements on Tuesday, as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Israel and the West Bank for the first time in more than a year.

As Kerry set aside his goal of a long-sought peace accord to make way for more modest hopes of an end to two months of deadly violence, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for the recognition of some existing settlement blocs in exchange for steps to ease tensions with the Palestinians.

In Washington, the State Department quickly rejected any suggestion the U.S. would alter its longstanding opposition to settlements or recognize them as legitimate outside of a peace agreement.

There were no signs that Kerry made headway in easing tensions during his meetings with Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Alongside Netanyahu, Kerry noted Israel's obligation to defend itself from "attacks in the streets with knives, with scissors, with cars." When he met Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, he said the shootings and stabbings were a "challenge to all civilized people."

None of the leaders themselves offered any encouragement that peace might be possible right now.

"There can be no peace when we have an onslaught of terror, not here, not anywhere else," Netanyahu said.

The Palestinians and the international community, including the U.S., reject all settlement activity as illegal or illegitimate. The official said Israel would not agree to any freeze in settlement construction. The Palestinians seek all of the West Bank, captured by Israel in 1967, as the heartland of their future state. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry JACQUELYN MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Three dead, 16 captured as Taliban downs helicopter

Taliban insurgents on Tuesday ambushed a military-contracted helicopter that made an emergency landing in Faryab province in northwestern Afghanistan, killing three people in a shootout and capturing 16 others who were on board, Afghan officials said.

An army officer in Faryab said anonymously that the civilian aircraft had been contracted to transport army personnel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suicide car bomb outside Libyan capital kills five

A security official with Libya's Islamist government says a suicide car bombing struck a checkpoint in Msallata, a town southeast of Tripoli. He says the explosion killed five militia fighters and wounded 17 people, 10 of them critically.

Libya has been in turmoil following the toppling and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A soldier patrols at the Christmas market along the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris. MICHEL EULER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Second bomb plot discovered in raid

Paris

Business district was next target: Prosecutor

The man believed to have planned the Nov. 13 Paris attacks that killed 130 people and wounded hundreds more had likely planned to carry out another suicide bombing days later in the French capital's business district, the Paris prosecutor said Tuesday.

Abdelhamid Abaaoud and an accomplice are believed to have been planning to attack La Defence on Nov. 18 or 19, Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said.

Abaaoud was among three people killed during a police raid on an apartment in a northern Paris suburb in the early hours of Nov. 18. His female cousin, Hasna Ait Boulahcen, died of asphyxia apparently from the explosive vest detonated by a third person, who hasn't been identified, the prosecutor said. The explosion led to part of the apartment collapsing.

Molins said the unidentified third person is believed to have been the accomplice with whom Abaaoud would have carried out an attack on La Defence, the high-rise district that is headquarters to major companies on the western edge of Paris.

The prosecutor said he "can't be, and doesn't want to be more precise" on the details suggesting such an attack had been planned. Information obtained on Nov. 19 suggested "that the two attackers — Abaaoud and the man we found by his side in the apartment — were planning an attack consisting of blowing themselves up at La Defence either on Wednesday the 18th or Thursday the 19th," Molins said.

The Nov. 13 attacks in Paris, claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), targeted people enjoying a Friday night out at a packed concert hall, a restaurant terrace, a cafe and a friendly soccer match between France and Germany. In the hours after the killings, Abaaoud is believed to have returned to the sites of at least some of the attacks, including the Bataclan concert hall, even while special police forces were still there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **The two ... were planning an attack consisting of blowing themselves up at La Defence.**
> Francois Molins, Paris prosecutor

GLOBAL INCIDENT

Plane attack a 'stab in back', says Putin

Turkey shot down a Russian warplane on Tuesday that it said ignored repeated warnings and crossed into its airspace from Syria, killing at least one of the two pilots in a long-feared escalation in tensions between Russia and NATO.

Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced what he called a "stab in the back" and warned of "significant consequences."

The shoot down — the first time in half a century that a NATO member has downed a Russian plane — prompted an emergency meeting of the alliance. The incident highlighted the chaotic complexity of Syria's civil war, where multiple groups with clashing alliances are fighting on the ground and the sky is crowded with aircraft bombing various targets.

"As we have repeatedly made clear we stand in solidarity with Turkey and support the territorial integrity of our NATO ally, Turkey," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference after the meeting of the alliance's decision-making North Atlantic Council, called at Turkey's request.

The pilots of the downed Su-24 ejected, but one was killed by Syrian rebel fire from the ground as he parachuted to Earth, said the Russian general staff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Russian Su-24 takes off on a combat mission at Hemeimeem airbase in Syria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

IN BRIEF

France and U.S. to step up airstrikes against ISIL

President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande vowed Tuesday to escalate airstrikes against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and bolster intelligence sharing following the deadly Paris attacks. They called on Russia to join the international efforts, but only if Moscow ends its support for Syria's president. "Russia is the outlier," Obama said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tunisia in State of Emergency after bomb kills 12

Tunisia's president declared a 30-day state of emergency across the country and imposed an overnight curfew for the capital after an explosion Tuesday struck a bus carrying members of the presidential guard, killing at least 12 people and wounding 20 others. The government described it as a terrorist attack. Radical gunmen staged two attacks earlier this year that killed 60 people, devastated the tourism industry and rattled this young democracy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RESOURCES

UAE running out of groundwater

While skyscrapers and gleaming towers rose with lightning speed across the United Arab Emirates over the past two decades, the Gulf nation's thirst for water grew at an enormous rate — so much so that today, it threatens to dry up all of the country's groundwater in as little as 15 years, experts say.

To quench that demand, cities across the seven emirates that make up the UAE rely on desalinated seawater to supply 98 per cent of their drinking water, but that comes with a huge environmental and fiscal cost. Now, officials are looking at new technologies to cover that demand, while acknowledging the risks ahead.

"In our region, water is more important than oil," said Ahmad Belhoul, CEO of Masdar, the Abu Dhabi government's clean-energy company. "We're trying to find solutions to address that."

While the Emirates rose on its oil wealth, the riches spurred the development that strains the water supply in this desert nation. An academic paper published earlier this year by scientists at the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, suggested the country's entire supply of groundwater could be gone by 2030.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A desalination test facility in Abu Dhabi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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People shop in a nearly empty arcade in central Brussels on Monday. The lockdown imposed on the Belgian capital includes its subways and schools, which are to re-open Wednesday.

VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels lockdown hurting businesses

SECURITY ALERT

Some owners say measures too dramatic, cut into profits

Belgium may be famed for its beer and chocolate, but the lockdown imposed on the capital because of the highest-level security alert is leaving a bad taste for many businesses.

While few doubt the government's need to protect the public from a Paris-style attack — which officials have warned is a "serious and imminent" threat in Brussels — some shop owners say the attempts to shut down the city are too drastic.

Many shopping centres have been largely deserted since the threat alert was imposed Saturday.

"It's not a very good decision," Esther Willems, assistant manager at the Galler chocolate shop in Brussels' city centre, said of the lockdown in the capital. "In the last two days, we have only had about 10-11 clients." Normally, they would have around 100.

With many shops closed in downtown Brussels, Rachel Van der Veken's Maxi-Bagi cafe sandwich shop was one of the few still open.

"If I stay at home and accept this situation, it's like I accept what the terrorists are saying," she said.

Still, Van der Veken said she had zero customers on Saturday. Since then, her normal takings have been cut in half but she acknowledged it was impossible to say whether Belgian officials are overreacting.

"You can never say it's too high a cost because you have to protect your people, but why didn't they act before Paris? They knew there was always this threat."

The Belgian government says the threat alert will remain in place until Monday unless there is a significant development.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"It's not like terrorists are just walking around the streets here."**
> Esther Willems

IN BRIEF

Not enough grads have the right skills: CIBC head

Canada's post-secondary institutions are not producing enough graduates with the right skills to drive future economic growth, CIBC's CEO said.

Victor Dodig said Tuesday the country lags among its international peers when it comes to teaching disciplines that are increasingly important for innovation, such as math, science, and engineering. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emails reveal Coke's role in anti-obesity group

A non-profit founded to combat obesity says the $1.5 million it received from Coke has no influence on its work.

But emails The Associated Press obtained reveal Coca-Cola Co. helped pick the Global Energy Balance Network's leaders, edited its mission statement and suggested articles and videos for its website. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

General Mills sets goal to buy only cage-free eggs

General Mills has set a deadline for its conversion to all cage-free eggs by 2025.

Its brands include Pillsbury, Yoplait, and Betty Crocker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, November 25, 2015

The first fundraising scam? Researchers have found British monks in AD 1184 raised money by claiming to house the bones of King Arthur.

URBAN ETIQUETTE **ELLEN VANSTONE**

THE QUESTION

I recently got into a cab that was filthy dirty. It reeked. When I got out, I reeked. Should I have said something to the driver?

Dear Ellen,

I recently got into a cab that was filthy dirty. It reeked. When I got out, I reeked. Should I have said something to the driver?

Katie in Ottawa

Dear Katie,

When it comes to being on someone else's turf, or inviting someone on to yours, there can be a fine line between polite behaviour and being a doormat.

Take the dinner party, for example. Should I tell a guest to stop talking with his mouth full and stuff my napkin in his gob the next time he laugh-spits half-chewed pasta particles onto my spectacles? Never. As a gracious hostess, I must smile through bits of flying food as if this masticating monster is the most charming man who ever graced my table. Then, if forced to invite him again, I would simply seat him far away, in the section reserved for drunken slobs and boring egomaniacs. Since all these specimens are completely oblivious of everyone else, and therefore immune to the kind of torture each one of them inflicts, I consider this to be a fair and tactful solution for all concerned.

Similarly, if you're invited to someone else's home, and it's a filthy, stinking mess, you have no choice but to choke down whatever is on offer, and then check yourself in for medical tests the next day if you're not feeling well.

If the driver of your rolling garbage dump is an owner who wants to stay in business, they need to up their game.

None of this hostess-guest etiquette, however, applies to taxis, or restaurants, or any other transactional business where you are paying good money for a product or service, and your peace of mind and possibly health are at risk.

With a filthy taxicab, you have several options.

- Back away from the car, with or without an explanation ("*I just remembered*, I'm allergic to vinyl").
- Decline the service with an honest explanation: "Your cab is dirty and smells terrible. I think I'll wait for another one."
- Get into the cab if you can't wait for another one, and suffer in silence.
- Get into the cab and decline to tip when you reach your destination, though in this case, you do owe an explanation: "I'm sorry, but the state of your cab doesn't warrant a tip."

If the cab is actually a health hazard, or you need to redirect it to the nearest dry cleaner in order to get the smell off your clothes, you should not only say something, you should snap a pic of the operating licence and make a complaint, either to the taxi company or your city's licensing body, or both.

Taxi driving is a difficult job, and thanks to Uber — whose operators should also be held to a cleanliness standard — it's tougher than ever to make a living at it. But if the driver of your rolling garbage dump is an owner who wants to stay in business, they need to up their game.

And if the driver is an employee being forced to work all day in a dirty, stinking environment that you can't stand for 20 minutes, then consider that your official complaint might help them out too.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

metroview

Men are made into weapons of war. They need protection, too.

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Canada's decision to limit the Syrian refugees we're accepting to women, children and families for now (no unaccompanied men) makes me so angry. It's unfair. It's blind to the realities of war. And it might even aid ISIL.

To begin to see this issue clearly, we first need to ditch the dehumanizing language.

"Unaccompanied" sounds ominous. A one-man sleeper cell. How about "alone"?

Alone, because his entire family is among the quarter-million who've perished in the conflict. Alone, because he got separated from relatives and friends. Alone, because his loved ones are too sick or old or disabled to travel. War has a way of scattering people.

Syria's men and women both deserve protection: While women's bodily autonomy is often the first casualty of war, men's bodies are the weapons. President Bashar al-Assad's weapons. ISIL's weapons.

This is an especially dirty war, with atrocities on all sides. It's very difficult for Syrian men to avoid being swept in — either conscripted into Assad's forces or lured, by intimidation or intoxicating rhetoric, into armed groups like ISIL.

We like to think people who kill innocents and perpetrate war crimes are alien and evil to the core, but history shows almost anyone can be pressed into doing almost anything in the right circumstances.

Just ask any of the millions of men who walk the streets of Kampala, of Sarajevo, of Buenos Aires, and more, haunted every day by the ghosts of war. I lived for a few months in Rwanda, where hundreds of thousands of men wake up daily and face the fact that they once took machetes to dozens of their neighbours.

In another time and place, the young, able-bodied men in my life could be called to take up arms. My movie-buff friend. My 23-year-old fitness-fanatic brother. My cousin, forced to turn his rifle sights from ducks onto human beings. I'd do anything to spare him — to spare any of them — from that.

Toronto immigration lawyer Guidy Mamann told Metro that disqualifying young men is the only way to screen the promised number of refugees within the government's deadline (since extended by two months) and keep the security threat manageable. If we really don't have time to evaluate each case individually, maybe we do need to slow down.

Because when the federal government describes unaccompanied men as "security risks," they're really saying, "It doesn't matter who you are, it doesn't matter what your story is, we know enough about you to know you're dangerous."

Even if it's legal in this context, discriminating based on gender is not who we are. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is Canada's vision for a just world. We should aspire to live up to it always, especially when no one is making us.

If, like me, you value peace as an end in itself, then pressure our leaders to welcome Syrian refugees who qualify to Canada, regardless of their gender or family status.

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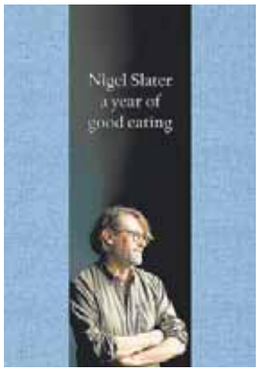
BOOK EXCERPT **A YEAR OF GOOD EATING BY NIGEL SLATER**

Steak, Stilton and thyme pie



A Year of Good Eating is the third instalment of English food writer Nigel Slater's Kitchen Diaries series.

In this one, he looks at culinary delights over the course of a year through diary entries, stories and recipes.

The book contains more than 250 recipes. Here's one that is perfect for the holiday season.

RECIPE EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM A YEAR OF GOOD EATING: KITCHEN DIARIES III BY NIGEL SLATER, HARPERCOLLINS, $44.99

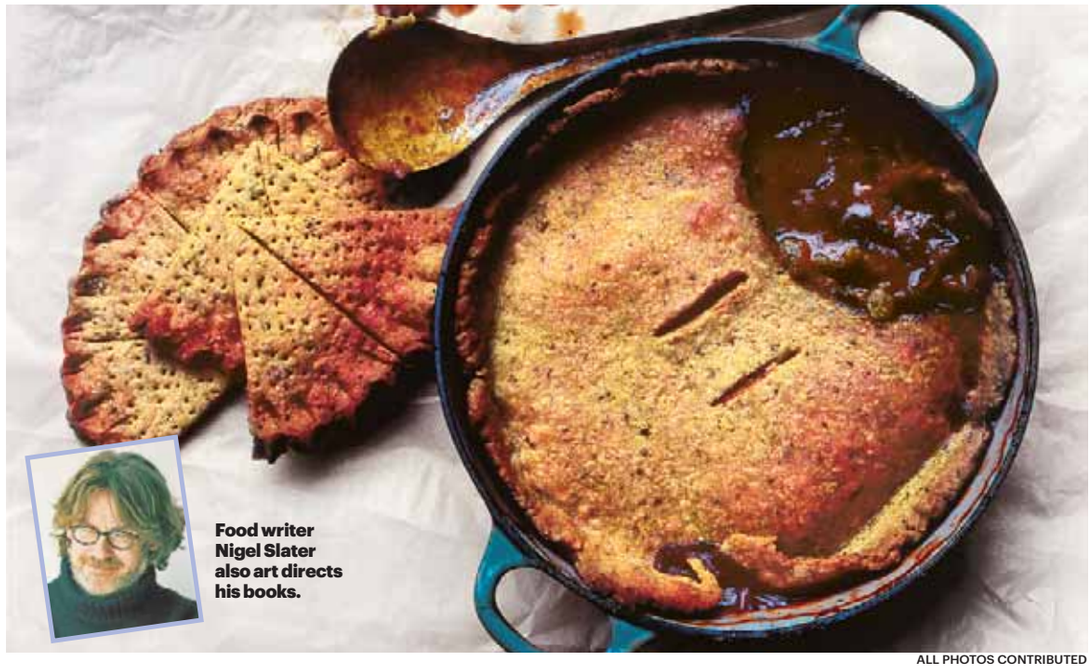
The cut of beef is up to you. It gets a good couple of hours' cooking, so could be a cheaper cut such as shin, or one of the less expensive of the steaks, such as rump. Many butchers and supermarkets sell usefully ready-cubed meat especially for such recipes.

Ingredients

- Groundnut oil — a little
- Beef, cubed — 1kg
- Small shallots — 10
- Carrots — 300g
- A rib of celery
- Plain flour — 2 tablespoons
- Marsala — 200ml
- Beef stock — 1 litre
- Thyme — 8 sprigs

For the shortbread crust:

- Plain flour — 250g
- Butter — 75g
- Parsley — a large handful
- Stilton — 80g
- Thyme leaves — 1 teaspoon
- Egg yolks — 2
- Water, to mix



Food writer Nigel Slater also art directs his books.

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Directions

Warm a couple of tablespoons of oil in a deep casserole dish over a moderately high heat, add a third of the beef and brown on all sides, then remove and continue with the rest of the meat. By doing it in two or three batches you avoid crowding the pan, allowing the meat to brown more effectively.

Peel and halve the shallots, roughly chop the carrots, then add both to the pan, with a little more oil if needed, browning gently and evenly. Slice the celery into thin pieces and add to the pan, but don't let it brown.

Return the beef to the pan, together with any juices that may have escaped. Scatter over the flour, continue cooking for a minute or two, then pour in the Marsala and the beef stock and bring to the boil. Season with salt and pepper, tuck in the thyme sprigs, then lower the heat and simmer, very gently, for almost two hours, till the beef is tender. Leave to cool a little whilst you make the crust.

For the crust: put the flour into a bowl, add the butter, then rub together until you have the texture of coarse, fresh breadcrumbs. Chop the parsley roughly. Add the crumbled Stilton, the chopped parsley and thyme leaves to the flour and butter and rub gently to fine crumbs.

Mix in the egg yolks and enough water to make a soft but rollable dough. Set the oven at 200°C/Gas 6.

Cut the dough in half. Roll one half to the diameter of the casserole dish, then place on top of the beef. Cut a hole or small slit in the centre to let the steam out. Shape the other half into a 20cm disc, place on a baking sheet, prick the surface with a fork, then score into six segments, as if you were slicing a cake.

Bake the pie and the separate crust for twenty-five to thirty minutes, till golden brown. (Keep an eye on the disc of crust — you may need to remove it before the pie is ready.) Serve the pie with wedges of the extra crust for those who want it. For four.

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BOOK EXCERPT **GAME OF SCONES BY JAMMY LANNISTER**

Oberyn's Smashing Surprise

Deliciously clever, witty and tasty, Game of Scones: All Men Must Dine: A Parody (HarperCollins) features a series of edible recipes inspired by some of the shocking events that took place during the first five seasons of the popular HBO series.

The following is a recipe for Oberyn's Smashing Surprise, a chocolate and jam treat inspired by the horrific scene where Oberyn Martell's head is crushed by The Mountain.

EXCERPT OF GAME OF SCONES: ALL MEN MUST DINE: A PARODY, BY JAMMY LANNISTER IS PRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF HARPERCOLLINS.

An explosion of chocolate and fruit that serves a gruesome reminder to always finish your dinner before walking away. **Feeds 8**

Ingredients

- 1 punnet fresh raspberries (Ed. note: a punnet is a small basket)
- 100g chocolate egg, about 12 cm tall
- 1 packet strawberry or raspberry jelly
- 100g butter, softened
- 175g icing sugar, sifted
- Black and red food colours
- A handful of cashew nuts

Directions

1. Cut the raspberries into mashed-brain-sized pieces.

2. Take the chocolate egg and, using a knife, cut a small hole in the top of the egg towards the back.

3. In a jug, make up the jelly as directed on the back of the packet and stir in the raspberries (you should have expected this recipe to be a little fruity), putting it aside to cool.

4. Meanwhile, beat the butter and icing sugar together until fluffy. Keeping back a very small amount for the tongue, colour the butter cream with black food colour. Colour the remaining amount red.

Transfer the black icing to a pipping bag fitted with a plain nozzle and add hair and features to the egg.

Fill in the tongue with the red icing using the tip of a knife.

5. Crush the cashew nuts using a large knife and with leftover icing attach them to the mouth to look like teeth.

6. Once cooled and just beginning to set, carefully pour the jelly into the head and leave to set.

7. To serve, place your thumbs in the egg's eyes, allowing them to melt the chocolate a little before pushing through and crushing the egg to reveal the jelly inside.

8. As the chocolate face gives way beneath your hands, loudly confess to your hideous crimes and watch as your guests quietly make towards the door.

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What does it mean when guys eat more?

WORD OF MOUTH

Men dominate eating contests, holiday-dinner extra helpings

Theresa Albert
For Metro Canada

A study says that men eat 92 per cent more when in the presence of women. ISTOCK

Do you know that a man is more likely to overeat in the presence of women? The theory is that they do it to impress the opposite sex. According to a new study published in the Journal of Evolutionary Psychological Science at Cornell University, men consumed 92 per cent more when in the presence of women but not when in the presence of only other men. Women eat exactly the same regardless of who they were with. Here are some ways you can spot the phenomenon in action:

- The macho effect is at play when junk food companies introduce the next double down, super huge, extra bacon and uber deep fried "snack." It appeals to mostly young men who feel invincible and who can handle the calories
- Eating contests at state fairs, company picnics and on YouTube are overrepresented by males. Men tend to enter these contests more often, win these contests most often and attend or watch the caveman behaviour most often. (This calls into question the theory of them doing so to impress women...)
- The holiday table you are about to enjoy. Take a casual look around at the heap on the plates in your life. Whose is higher? Who goes back for more?

In the never-ending quest for answers on the obesity front it is up to you to decide where this piece of the pie this information fits.

Theresa is an on-camera food and health expert, nutritionist and writer who loves to spread the word on food

FOOD BRIEF

Mancan wine gets skewered on the Internet

Mancan: It's wine. In a can. For a man.

Because sometimes, sidling up to a bar, asking for a Pinot Grigio, and holding a glass of wine by the stem while buddies are chugging back beer can be emasculating, an entrepreneur decided to put wine in a can and allow his fellow wine-loving homies to enjoy the taste of red fruits and tannins while grunting about sports.

The marketing gimmick has generated no small amount of buzz with some camps skewering the product:

- "This isn't wine in a can. This is #MasculinitySoFragile in a can."
- "Actually #ManCan, I'm quite OK with stemware. And my masculinity too." AFP

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

N. Korea wins back pride in kimchi war

North Korea has applied to have its kimchi get the same official UNESCO status as its South Korean counterpart. ISTOCK

North Korea scored a major victory in the kimchi wars Monday when the UN all but elevated its pickled vegetables to the same lofty status as its southern neighbour's spicy capitalist cabbage.

Pyongyang suffered a blow to its prestige two years ago when South Korea's kimchi — a favourite dish made mostly from fermented cabbage — was added to UNESCO's prestigious list of the world's "intangible cultural heritage." Not to be outdone, the north is now on the brink of getting the same classification for its own communist kimchi.

The fiery, often strong-smelling foodstuff can provoke equally strong emotions, with fierce rivalry between regions, communities and even families over whose kimchi is superior.

"Koreans share experience among themselves to make delicious kimchi according to season, while helping each other with raw materials and in preparation," UNESCO said as it confirmed the inclusion of the Democratic Republic of Korea's "red kimchi" on a list of nominations to be rubberstamped at a meeting next week in Namibia.

Seventeen other folk, dance, song and artisanal traditions are also set to receive UNESCO help and protection. AFP

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NEW TRACK

Cocker marks Paris attacks with music

Jarvis Cocker GETTY IMAGES

Pulp singer Jarvis Cocker has released a track inspired by the November 13 Paris attacks.

The musician premiered the piece on his BBC6 radio show over the weekend.

The spoken-word track begins with the singer describing his day and going on to explore the idea of freedom, with Cocker listing all the different people he loves.

"We're all free," the lyrics state. "Free to mess up or get trashed, but free to do it in our own way. And I love the way that you are doing it. And I love the way that you are free."

Cocker is not the only artist to have been inspired by the attacks — earlier this week U.S. rock band Foo Fighters surprised fans with a free new EP dedicated to the victims of the attacks. AFP

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Light from The Shadow

WARRIORS FROM THE NORTH, PASSIONATE EYE (CBC)

Warriors From The North is an insightful look at what drives young people to join terrorist groups. it re-airs on CBC Teleivsion this Saturday night. CONTRIBUTED

In this Danish documentary by Soren Steen Jespersen and Nasib Farah, a young man identified as The Shadow sits in a dim room, his face and voice obscured.

Calmly, he explains his reasons for joining Al-Shabab, the Islamic extremist group based in Somalia. As the son of Somali immigrants to Denmark — allegedly one of the most socially enlightened places on earth — The Shadow spent his teenage years on the margins, doing drugs, getting into trouble, and seeing no prospects for himself.

"Nothing in my life made any sense," he says.

Then a group took him in, fed him, treated him seriously, talked to him about God. He realized, "I could become a warrior for Al-Shabab, or I could stay in Copenhagen and be a failure."

Anyone struggling to understand why so many people volunteer to kill themselves in what they see as holy war can find answers here.

After a childhood friend blew up a medical school graduation, Farah travelled to Somalia and back to Denmark, conducting interviews over four years. His insider point of view sets this doc apart, as does its call for compassion.

The filmmakers believe western authorities should bring these young people back into society, rather than punish or alienate them further.

They contend that the West needs to admit its own failings: a study of seven European cities proves that Somali communities suffer the most isolation, the least employment, and the lowest rate of education.

You don't have to be Einstein to realize what comes out of that.

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Kitchen trials of a MasterChef judge

COOKBOOK

Weight loss altered how Elliot prepares everyday meals

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

In person, chef Graham Elliot, of TV's MasterChef fame, looks different.

He's not wearing his usual bow tie, button-down shirt and vest, nor is he wearing a chef jacket. The white frame Ray Bans glasses, however, are unmistakable.

We meet on this unusually balmy October day in Toronto to talk about his first book, Cooking Like a Master Chef — his elevated take on foods "that everyone has had before," he explains — stroganoff, pot roast, scallops, and caesar salad for example.

Sporting a red hoodie over a black T, jeans and red Converse sneakers, Elliot is feeling under the weather, slumped into the couch, his voice scratchy. But like his "jolly" TV persona, he's gracious and polite, even when we discuss his very apparent weight loss since he first shot to fame.

Elliot, who had vertical sleeve gastrectomy in 2013, used to weigh 400 lbs, has now dropped to 250. He says that while this is not a diet book, the 100 recipes here are not the same as they would have been five years ago.

"I think maybe (my lifestyle) was reflective in the food that I did where it was like, 'let's put a bunch of pop rocks on top of this! And maybe garnish this with chocolate sauce!"

There are still indulgent dishes in the book, he says, "but it doesn't mean that I have to sit there and personally eat it all, too."

Like for many chefs who work crazy long hours in a stressful environment, he used food as a crutch, he says. It's ironic that he would put so much love and thought into food he made for other people, but none of the care into his own meals.

"I would take $20/lb filet mignon, serve it, roast it, glaze it in butter and herbs, slice it thin a beautiful potato purée and at the end of the night I realize I haven't eaten in eight hours. So I would take all these burnt pieces of the filet that were leftover and squash it between a bun and that's my dinner, at three in the morning," he says.

His surgery, which made his stomach smaller, thereby limiting his daily caloric intake, didn't really have an impact on food prep he says. That's where expertise (he's been in the business for 20 years) comes in.

Take for instance the Maple-Bourbon Glazed Scallops with Butternut Squash and Swiss Chard (pg. 113), which he knows is going to have similar components to a butternut squash bisque with sliced raw scallop over the top, for instance.

"I know that that means it's going to be a soft silky texture, it's going to be naturally sweet, and I'll need something acidic to cut through the richness of the soup. You don't have to go and spoon up and taste everything in the world. You'll just taste it to make sure it's seasoned right," he says.

Graham Elliot has released his first cookbook, Cooking Like a Master Chef. Recipe for Cheddar Cheese Risotto below.

RECIPE CHEDDAR CHEESE RISOTTO

Serves 4 to 6
Prep time: About 35 minutes, plus drying and resting
Cooking time: About 1 hour

Bacon Powder
- 4 slices thick-cut bacon, chopped into small pieces

Apple Garnish
- 2 Gala or similar firm, sweet apples, peeled, cored, and julienned (reserve the apple peelings)
- 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup grenadine
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar

Glazed Onions
- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 cups peeled pearl onions
- 3 Tbsp hard cider

Risotto
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup minced onions
- 2 cups arborio rice
- 3 cups dry white wine
- 4 oz Wisconsin cheddar cheese, shredded (about 1 cup)
- 2 oz mascarpone (about 1/4 cup)
- Salt and coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 bunch chives, finely chopped, for garnish

1. For the bacon powder, in a small frying pan, slowly cook the bacon over medium-low heat. Spoon the fat off and discard as the bacon cooks. When the bacon browns, use a slotted spoon to transfer the bacon to a fine-mesh sieve or chinois to drain a little more. Spread the bacon pieces on paper towels and allow the bacon to air-dry for 2 to 3 hours.

2. Grind the bacon pieces in a spice or coffee grinder. Spread the powder on paper towels and let it air-dry for at least 6 hours. The powder can be made up to 2 days ahead and stored in a lidded container at room temperature until ready to use.

3. For the apple garnish, in a small bowl, toss the julienned apples with the lemon juice. Add some cold water to cover the apples and set aside for up to 4 hours.

4. In a small saucepan, combine the grenadine, vinegar, and brown sugar with the reserved apple peelings. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, reduce the heat, and simmer for about 5 minutes, or until the syrup has reduced to the consistency of honey. Transfer the syrup to a blender and puree until smooth. Set aside until needed.

5. For the glazed onions, in a large sauté pan, melt the butter over medium-high heat. When hot, cook the pearl onions for about 15 minutes, or until browned and tender.

6. Add the hard cider, reduce the heat to medium, and cook for about 30 minutes longer, or until the onions are cooked through. Lift the onions from the cooking liquid and set aside, covered to keep warm, until needed.

7. For the risotto, in a large saucepan, bring about 3 cups of water to a boil. Reduce the heat so that it's barely simmering but is very hot.

8. In a large, deep pot, heat the oil over medium-high heat and sauté the minced onions for 4 to 5 minutes, or until translucent. Add the rice and stir with a wooden spoon to mix well with the onions. Cook for 5 minutes longer.

9. Reduce the heat to medium-low and add 1 cup of the wine, stirring the rice and wine continuously with the wooden spoon. When the first cup of wine has been absorbed by the rice, add another cup. Stir the rice and wine, and add the final cup of wine when the rice has absorbed the second cup. As you stir, the rice will release its natural starches, which help absorb the liquid.

10. Begin adding the hot water in 1/4-cup increments, stirring all the while. When you have added about 1 cup of the hot water, start tasting the rice and when it's al dente and has a little toothiness, stop adding water. This entire process should take about 20 minutes. Keep the hot water on the stove.

11. Add the cheddar and mascarpone to the hot risotto. Stir to allow the cheese to melt into the rice. Gently stir in the glazed onions. Season with salt and pepper. (Make sure you use enough pepper, which helps cut through the flavors of the dish.)

12. Divide the risotto among four to six serving plates or shallow bowls. Drain and pat dry the julienned apples and garnish each serving with the apples, chives, and bacon powder. Spoon the pureed apple peelings around the outside of the dish.

EXCERPT OF COOKING LIKE A MASTER CHEF: 100 RECIPES TO MAKE THE EVERYDAY EXTAORDINARY, BY GRAHAM ELLIOT IS PRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF ATRIA BOOKS.

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metro DRIVE
Your essential daily news

White is the most popular car colour worldwide for fifth year running, Axalta report shows

Practical Civic shows its fun side

REVIEW

Canada's top-selling ride gets a complete makeover

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

Even when something's at the top of the heap, it still has to be kept up to date, but that rule hasn't always resonated with Honda. Its Civic has been Canada's best-selling car for almost two decades, but the last couple of "all-new" redesigns were so watered-down that it was sometimes tough to see exactly what had been done.

All is forgiven with the 2016 sedan, which truly is completely redesigned and which is now one of the more impressive mainstream compact sedans that I've driven.

There are two new engines, starting with a 2.0-litre four-cylinder that makes 158 horsepower, but my tester used the 1.5-litre turbo-charged four-cylinder. It's Honda's first turbo in North America and cranks out 174 horsepower, and runs on regular-grade gasoline. While the 2.0-litre is available with a six-speed manual, the turbo exclusively uses an automatic continuously-variable transmission (CVT). The steering and handling are also much improved, and the car feels lightweight and nimble, with sharp response.

It's now longer and wider, and even though the roof swoops down at the back, rear-seat headroom remains the same as before. The cabin is very roomy and comfortable overall. The interior is also updated, most notably with a new instrument cluster that replaces the weird two-tiered version Civic used to have. Almost all materials are now soft-touch for a premium feel, and there's more small-item storage space than before. Most of the controls are large and easy to use, but the stereo needs a real volume dial, instead of an annoying touch-screen slider that's nearly impossible to accurately tap when you're moving.

There's also smartphone integration on all but the base model. Plug in your phone, and either Apple CarPlay or Android Auto will access many of your apps on the car's centre screen (but please pay attention to your driving instead).

The Civic's still practical, but now it's fun as well. It's taken a few tries to get here, but Honda has finally released a version that's truly worthy of its best-seller status.

KUDOS
The 2016 Honda Civic was named the Best New Small Car by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 HONDA CIVIC SEDAN

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact sedan
Engine (hp/torque). 2.0-litre four-cylinder (158/138); 1.5-litre turbo four-cylinder (174/162)
Transmissions. Six-speed manual or CVT
Price. $15,990 (base), $24,990 (as-tested), plus destination

COOL FEATURES

- Capless fuel filler
- Walk-away locking
- Lane Watch passenger-side monitor
- Wireless phone charging
- LED headlights
- Forward collision warning with braking
- Lane departure warning and mitigation
- Electronic parking brake

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

POINTS

- The Civic is also made in Ohio, but all sedans sold in Canada are built at Honda's plant in Alliston, Ont.
- Although it's larger than the outgoing model, the new version uses more high-strength steel, so it's stiffer and weighs less than before.
- The base DX trim comes only with a stick shift, and air conditioning is not available on it.

MARKET POSITION

Honda admits it was previously only chasing the competition, but now tries to move ahead. Civic is now a global vehicle, and all factories worldwide use techniques and training developed at the Ontario plant.

THE COMPETITION

Toyota Corolla
Base price: $15,995

Dodge Dart
Base price: $17,995

Volkswagen Jetta
Base price: $15,995

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Honda's shrinking act no small feat

MISSION E CONCEPT

Porsche unveils an electric game-changer

An all-electrically-powered four-seat, four-door sports car with a 500-kilometre range, 600 horsepower, all-wheel-drive and 15-minute recharge time could soon be real if Porsche decides to build its stunning Mission E concept. The source of Porsche's string of incredible claims is the first 800-volt power system to be incorporated in an automobile. Conventional electrics use 400-volt systems. Although the car is a concept, its electric drive system has been proven in motor racing, in the Porsche 919 hybrid that finished 1-2 at this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race in France.

HYDROGEN

FCV powertrain matches conventional tech for size

New technology means that Honda's tentatively named FCV fuel-cell vehicle — one of only a few hydrogen-powered sedans beginning to come to market — can house its entire powertrain in the same space that a traditional internal-combustion engine and transmission occupy. Just two decades ago, fuel-cell powertrains were on average the size of a minivan, making Honda's achievement no small feat. The car debuted at last month's Tokyo Motor Show, featuring a full cabin that seats five adults and a claimed range of 700 kilometres. "Exhilarating driving" is made possible by two high-output motors, Honda said.

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA; MODEL X PHOTO: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

DESIGN

Tesla Model X is gullwingin' it

Two versions of Tesla Motors' uniquely designed and styled Model X midsize wagon were offered at launch: the inventively named 90D, starting at $133,200 in the United States, and the just-as-ambitiously-titled P90D, starting at $143,200 and bearing the "Ludicrous Speed" option that gives it a zero-to-96-km/h time of 3.2 seconds. Both versions will travel a claimed 400 kilometres on a single charge, carry seven passengers in three rows of seats, and tow up to 2,270 kilograms. Unique features include rear passenger doors that swing straight up, a single-piece windshield that sweeps from the hood to halfway across the roof, an automatic front door and, for the cabin, a medical-grade air filtration system.

IN BRIEF

• **Audi** says it is committed to putting its much-heralded E-tron Quattro into production, calling the all-electric concept "a foretaste" of what's to come. With a 310-kilometre range, the automaker says the E-tron Quattro will be "sporty, efficient and suitable for everyday use."

• The **Los Angeles Police Department** has pressed a couple of electric cars into police service. It will get a BMW i3 loaner next year for research and public-relations purposes; a loaner Tesla Model S P85D will also see police duty.

• **Cylinder deactivation** allows larger-displacement engines to cut fuel to some cylinders under light loads — typically, to four of eight cylinders. General Motors is considering a system that deactivates all but two cylinders, noting a GMC Yukon Denali needs just 30 horsepower to cruise at steady highway speeds.

TOYOTA

Fuel-cell 'family' not expected within decade

As it did with the Prius hybrid that began as a single model and grew into its own line of vehicles, Toyota might eventually do the same with its limited-production Mirai hydrogen-fuel-cell sedan, pictured, currently available in North America only in California and in very small numbers. Mirai chief engineer Yoshikazu Tanaka hopes one day a model lineup of fuel-cell vehicles will be the case. Speaking to Autocar magazine, he didn't propose anything specific model-wise, as that won't happen overnight, he said. It likely will take 10 or 20 years before fuel-cell cars achieve sales volumes in the neighbourhood of today's hybrids, and finding clean sources of hydrogen is still considered an issue.

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SL AWD Premium model shown▲

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1.8 SL model shown▲

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SR AT model shown▲

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Offers available from November 3-30 2015. ^Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis, for advertising purposes only. #Representative monthly lease offer based on a new 2016 Rogue S FWD CVT (Y6RG16 AA00). 1.99% lease APR for a 60 month term equals monthly payments of $281 with $0 down payment, and $0 security deposit. First monthly payment, down payment and $0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Payments include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $16,848. 2016 Rogue S FWD CVT do not qualify for 'No Charge AWD credit'. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. *$2,180//$2,000//$2,500//$2,000 no-charge all-wheel drive upgrade is available on new 2015 Juke (excluding SV FWD (N5RT55 AA00)/ 2016 Juke (except SV FWD (N5RT56 AA00 and AE00) as well as NISMO RS FWD (N5YT56 AA00) // 2016 Rogue (excluding S FWD (Y6RG16 AA00) and SV special edition FWD (Y6SG16 AA00)) // 2015 Pathfinder (excluding S 4x2 (5XRG15 AA00) // 2015 Murano (except S FWD (1XRG15 NA00) // SV FWD (IXSG15 CC00)) models purchased or financed with NCF at standard rates and delivered between Nov. 3 - 30, 2015. Offer consists of a discount that can only be used at the time of initial purchase/finance and applied towards: (i) the purchase of an all-wheel drive system from an authorized nissan dealer; and/or (ii) the purchase price of the vehicle. **Dealer cost of 350//$400//$500 no-charge winter tire package offer is available on new 2015 Micra // 2015 & 2016 Versa Note // 2015 Sentra models purchased, leased, or financed and delivered between Nov. 3 - 30, 2015. Offer consists of a discount, that is a dealer portion, that can only be used at the time of initial purchase/lease/finance and applied towards: (i) the purchase of a winter tire package (includes: all-season floor mats, emergency road kit, and 4 specified winter tires -- rims, tire installation and balancing not included) from an authorized Nissan dealer; and/or (ii) the purchase price of the vehicle. The discounts will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes and can be combined with special lease and finance rates offered through Nissan Canada Finance. Any unused portion of a discount will not be refunded and may not be banked for future use. Offers are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Conditions apply. ≈Cash discount is $2,500 available on 2015 Micra SR trims, excludes S trim which gets $1,550 and SV trims which get $1,750. $2,500 NCF standard rate cash, $0 dealer participation. Only applicable with finance through Nissan Canada Finance at standard rates. •$12,198 selling price includes MSRP and fees for a new 2015 Sentra 1.8 S M6 (C4LG55 AA00). $5,031 NCI non-stackable cash discount, which includes $350 dealer participation included in advertised amount on 2015 Sentra 1.8 S M6 (C4LG55 AA00). ▲Models shown $37,139/$26,129/$18,569 Selling price for a new 2016 Rogue SL AWD Premium (Y6DG16 BK00)/ 2015 Sentra 1.8 SL (C4TG15 AA00)/2015 Micra 1.6 SR AT (S5SG75 AE10). See your dealer or visit Nissan.ca/Loyalty. *•‡▲Freight and PDE charges ($1,760/$1,600/$1,600) air-conditioning levy ($100) where applicable, applicable fees (all which may vary by region), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. For more information see IIHS.org. °Available feature. FEB cannot prevent accidents due to carelessness or dangerous driving techniques. It may not provide warning or braking in certain conditions. Speed limitations apply. ‡Around View Monitor cannot completely eliminate blind spots and may not detect every object. Always check surroundings before moving vehicle. Virtual composite 360 view. The Nissan Sentra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. ©2015 Nissan Canada Inc. and Nissan Canada Financial Services Inc. a division of Nissan Canada Inc.

AUTOPILOT

Interior design for the self-driving era stirs mixed feelings

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

The Volvo Concept 26 revealed at this week's auto show in Los Angeles isn't a whole vehicle — just some interior elements to show how an interior might be optimized to take advantage of autonomous or self-driving technology.

The main idea behind Concept 26 is that future autonomous cars will allow drivers three different ways to spend their time behind the wheel — drive, work or relax. This interior will literally reshape itself into three different "modes," depending on what you want to do.

"Drive" mode is like a normal interior, with upright seating and the driver at the control.

"Create" is one of modes possible when the vehicle is driving itself, and transforms the driver cockpit into a work station, entertainment lounge, or combination of both. The passenger-side dashboard flips around to reveal a 25-inch flat-screen monitor.

The driver's seat, tray table, and tablet interface in the centre console can be configured in a variety of ways to help you get work done, or to consume various quantities of entertainment.

"Relax" mode reclines the driver's seat into a bed-like horizontal position. You can just lie there, or partake of the content that the entertainment centre curates, and suggests to you, via the big flat screen.

This is all good, right? Who wouldn't want to nap in your car when you're too tired to drive? Or watch the complete first season of the acclaimed British series, Sherlock, starring the captivating Benedict Cumberbatch, during one straight drive to Disney World in Florida?

I'm just having trouble with the suggestion that this interior, and others like it that are also optimized for self-driving, will "save" time, or make time more productive, or just generally be "better" somehow.

The Volvo Concept 26 is so called because, according to Volvo research, autonomous driving will "allow drivers to reclaim a significant amount of time from their daily commute, and make the time more meaningful.… In the United States many drivers could regain an average of 26 additional minutes for each commute and several hundred hours per year."

Make the time more meaningful? By spending more time on the screen?

I guess there is always the possibility that more screen time could be productive and meaningful, but the chances are just as great we're going to slide into our default mode, and watch another episode of Say Yes to the Dress, or the latest instalment of Sports Centre, or other stuff we'd rather not admit to publicly.

I don't have a long commute now, but when I did a few years ago, I loved that "limbo" state, where a hectic work day was held at bay, or my home life was held at bay, until I actually got there.

The boring commute seems to be one of the last best ways to get some forced "do nothing time," which researchers increasingly say is a vital component of being human.

Movie treatment

The Los Angeles Auto Show has brought with it a share of creative car makeovers as vehicle manufacturers partner with movie studios for a series of eye-catching tie-ins; we look at four recent homages from the show itself and abroad. AFP

FIAT

A 'Trooper

Fiat Automobiles has snagged the Star Wars look that turns its 2008 European Car of the Year into a piece of sci-fi headwear on wheels. The Fiat 500e Stormtrooper has a custom colour scheme plus a windshield and side windows wrap that gives it the look of a First Order Stormtrooper's protective helmet. The black and white theme continues with the supermini's interior that envelops leather- and Alcantara-upholstered front and rear seats, with a "Star Wars" logo placed on the dash and a First Order insignia placed on the leather-wrapped steering wheel.

FORD

The Minionwagon

Meanwhile, Ford's Transit Connect isn't so much miniwagon as it is Minionwagon after a crossover with Universal Pictures' Minions. The seven-passenger, folding-seat Minionwagon is in the midst of a U.S. tour, starting at the final NASCAR Sprint Cup race at the Homestead-Miami Speedway on Nov. 22 before heading to the Universal Orlando Resort, then Atlanta and Philadelphia, before arriving in New York City.

MERCEDES-BENZ

One for the whole gang

Big enough for Charlie and all his pals: The Peanuts Movie has got a helping hand from Mercedes-Benz in the form of the V-Class van. If we all thought Snoopy flies a Sopwith Camel, it turns out that he drives a Mercedes-Benz van, at least for now, as the Peanuts gang are going on a promotional tour of Germany. That's ahead of The Peanuts Movie getting its domestic German-language premiere on Dec. 23, while a 30-second computer-animated commercial, "Snoopy's Biggest Ride," does the job on TV.

TOYOTA

Futuristic twist

Back at the L.A. Auto Show, Toyota brought its "Back to the Future" edition of the hydrogen-powered Mirai to the Convention Center floor. Shown off at the Las Vegas SEMA Show at the start of November and now in Los Angeles, the gullwinged custom number also sports several other modifications courtesy of Toyota partner MV Designz: a Mr. Fusion power supply, a Flux Capacitor, time machine display and mirrored wheels, in addition to the films' Outatime registration plate.

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Starting From Price for 2016 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk shown: $35,540‡

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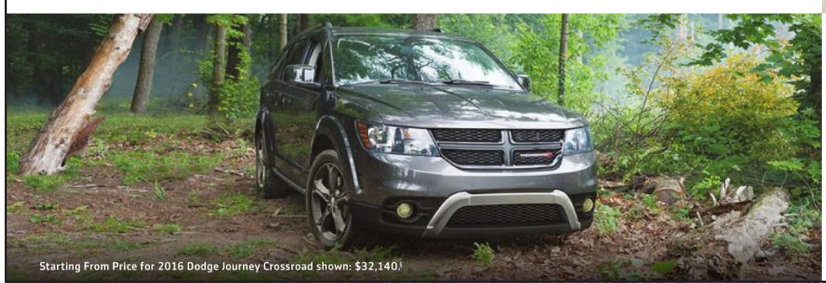
OR STEP UP TO THE SXT FOR ONLY $19 MORE BI-WEEKLY

OR GET 0% FINANCING† FOR 72 MONTHS ON OUR MOST POPULAR MODELS

Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan R/T shown: $37,840‡



Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $32,140‡

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Wise customers read the fine print: †, ◊, Ω, •, ➤, ‡, », ═, *, § The Black Friday Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers between November 21 and 30, 2015. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,745), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. †0% purchase financing for up to 72 months available on select new 2016 models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x4 (24A)/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey SXT (29E) with a Purchase Price of $29,368/$28,177/$26,323/$27,850 with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 60/72/72/36 months equals 130/156/156/78 bi-weekly payments of $226/$181/$169/$357 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $29,368/$28,177/$26,323/$27,850. ◊$10,000 in Total Discounts is available on new 2016 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $7,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts, $1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash and $1,000 Black Friday Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. ΩFinance Pull-Ahead Bonus Cash and 1% Rate Reduction is available to eligible customers on the retail purchase of select 2015/2016 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT models at participating retailers. LIMITED TIME OFFER. Finance Pull-Ahead Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. 1% Rate Reduction applies on approved credit to most qualifying subvented financing transactions through RBC, TD Auto Finance & Scotiabank. 1% rate reduction cannot be used to reduce the final interest rate below 0%. Eligible customers include all original and current owners of a Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or FIAT model with an eligible standard/subvented finance or lease contract maturing after January 1, 2015. Trade-in not required. See retailer for complete details and exclusions. •$1,000 Black Friday Bonus Cash is available only on select 2015/2016 Chrysler 300/300C, Chrysler Town & Country models, Dodge Journey (excluding Canada Value Package/SE Plus models), Dodge Grand Caravan (excluding Canada Value Package models), Dodge Charger and Challenger (excluding Hellcat models), Durango, Ram 1500 (excluding Reg Cab models), Ram 2500/3500/Cab & Chassis, ProMaster, ProMaster City, FIAT 500, 500L, 500X, Jeep Grand Cherokee models, Jeep Renegade, Jeep Compass, Jeep Patriot, 2016 Jeep Wrangler (excluding Sport 2-door models) and Jeep Cherokee (excluding Sport 4x2 & 4x4 models) from November 21 to 30, 2015. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price after taxes. Offer available at participating Ontario retailers only. See retailer for complete details and conditions. ➤3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2015/2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport FWD (24A) with a Purchase Price of $29,368/$26,175 with a $998/$0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $157/$144 with a cost of borrowing of $4,185/$3,862 and a total obligation of $33,553.47/$30,036.64. ‡3.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $20,995/$20,150 with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $118/$113 with a cost of borrowing of $3,563/$3,420 and a total obligation of $24,558.35/$23,569.94. »$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2015/2016 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014/2015/2016 Ram 2500/3500/Cab & Chassis, or 2015 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before November 1, 2015. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baeumler Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ═Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 6.99% financing available on select 2015/2016 models. Financing example: 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of $20,995 financed at 6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $146 with a cost of borrowing of $5,614 and a total finance obligation of $26,608.53. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ∞Based on 2014 *Ward's* Middle Cross Utility segmentation. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by FCA Canada Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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GT model shown

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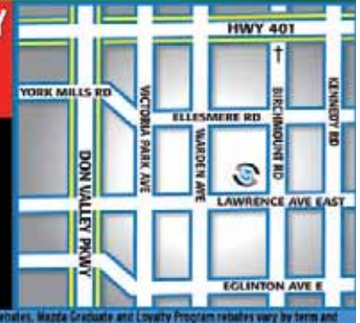

†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select new 2015 and 2016 Mazda models. $Cash rebates, Mazda Graduate and Loyalty Program rebates vary by term and model. See dealer for details. **Winter tire offer (value up to $500) valid on purchase or lease of all new 2015 and 2016 Mazda models purchased/leased between November 3 - 30, 2015. Customer can substitute a cash discount of up to $500. Cash discount substitute applied before taxes. Wheels and installation extra. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Offer available on retail financing of new 2015 Mazda 3 GX (DA1X6AAA00) with a 0.99% APR purchase financing and 182 bi-weekly payments of $99 for 84 months, including down payment (or equivalent trade-in) of $395. Offer excludes HST. Offers include freight and P.D.I. of $1,695, $10 OMVIC fee (all models), $21.75 Tire Stewardship fee (all models), and $100 Air Conditioning charge (where applicable). Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid from November 3 - November 30, 2015, while supplies last. Offers subject to change without notice.

GLK is mostly a worry-free bet

USED VEHICLE

2010-16 models from Mercedes mix comfort and sportiness

The Mercedes GLK launched for 2010 with a blocky and rugged look that flew in the face of more swoopy and wind-swept competitors, and boasted great visibility on account of its square proportions and thin window pillars, generous manoeuvrability, and a full complement of upscale feature content fitting of the badge.

Taking a place beneath the ML in the brand's utility vehicle lineup, GLK intended to compete with machines like the Acura RDX and BMW X3. Feature content included push-button start, navigation, heated leather, automatic climate control, xenon lights and plenty more.

At launch, all models ran a 3.5-litre V6 with 268 horsepower, a 7-speed automatic, and 4Matic All-Wheel Drive (AWD). From 2013, the V6 was up-rated to just over 300 horsepower, and a 2.1-litre twin-turbo diesel four-cylinder engine becomes available, in the GLK 250 Bluetec.

The test drive

Any jerky shifts, slamming sensations, or failure of the transmission to respond via downshift to throttle inputs could be the result of a fussy Transmission Control Unit (TCU), which can be remedied by a reset or re-flash of its computer software. If any unwanted sensations from the transmission are noted on a test drive, be sure to have a Mercedes dealer investigate.

Run the COMMAND central control interface through its paces, exploring and confirming proper operation of all functionalities. Some owners have reported sporadic or regular crashing-out of this system, which can render many vehicle functions relating to communications, entertainment and navigation inoperable. Revised system programming, available through your dealer, will typically solve any detected issues. Try the control knob in all directions, call up all menus, pair a phone, and be sure the system responds favourably.

Confirm proper operation of the powered tailgate, if equipped. If the tailgate reverses direction on its own, in either direction, a faulty motor clutch is probably to blame. Dealer service advisers have access to a service bulletin with more information on diagnosing and fixing issues with the rear power tailgate.

Squeaky brakes may be the result of excessive wear, or the need for revised brake pads to mitigate vibrations that cause squeaks. Other uncommon but notable issues include backup camera failure, short taillight bulb life, and fluid leaks from a front axle seal.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

What owners like

Styling, classiness, comfort and the GLK's upscale cabin are highly rated by owners. Many report a perfect blend of agility, sportiness and comfort is maintained on all surfaces. A solid and robust feeling of quality is noted, and even the standard stereo system is said to be potent. Finally, numerous tall drivers go out of their way to mention the GLK's generous head-room.

What owners dislike

Some owners wish for larger side mirrors and more rear seat legroom, and question the engine's need to be fed premium-grade fuel.

The verdict

The most frequently reported issues with the GLK appear to be minor in nature, and should be easily detected and fixed. Prospective shoppers who find a good deal on a used copy, and get a thumbs-up from a Mercedes-Benz technician on a pre-purchase inspection, can buy with confidence.

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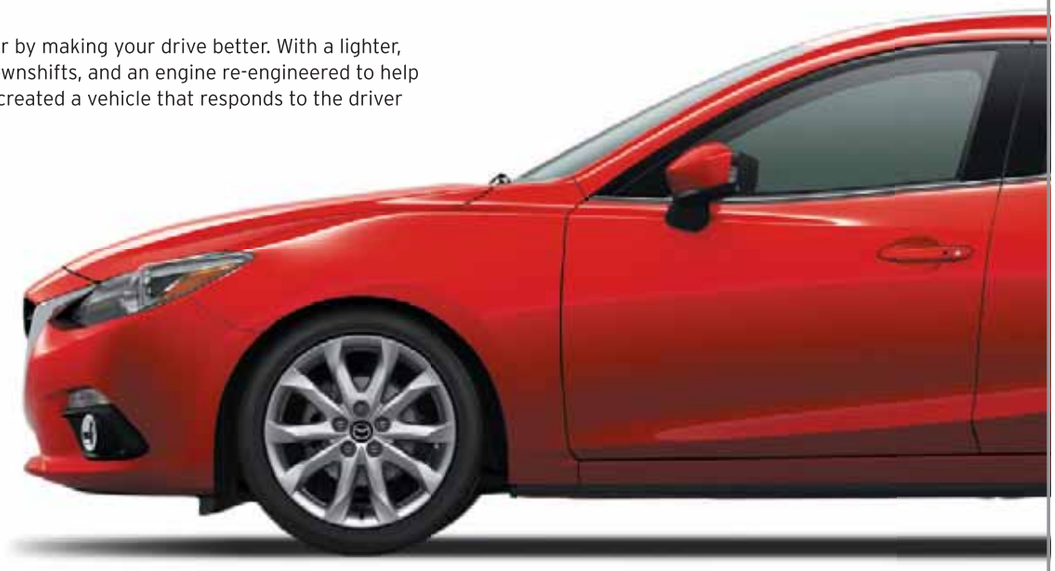

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ON SELECT 2015 AND 2016 MODELS

GT model shown

GT models shown

GT model shown

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†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select new 2015 and 2016 Mazda models. **NOTE:** 0% Purchase Financing not available on 2016 CX-3 models. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $24,145 for the new 2015 Mazda5 GS (E6SD65AA00) with a financed amount of $24,000, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is $0, monthly payment is $285.71, total finance obligation is $24,000. Offer includes freight and P.D.E. of $1,895, $10 OMVIC fee, $23.75 Tire Stewardship Fee, and $100 Air Conditioning charge. Offer excludes HST. ▼Winter tire offer (value up to $500) valid on purchase or lease of all new 2015 and 2016 Mazda models purchased/leased between November 3 – 30, 2015. Customer can substitute a cash discount of up to $500. Cash discount substitute applied before taxes. Wheels and installation extra. Some conditions apply. This offer is funded by your selling dealer. See dealer for complete details. *To learn more about the Mazda Unlimited Warranty, go to mazdaunlimited.ca. Licence, insurance, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid November 3 – 30, 2015, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

Ford

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Offer is not raincheckable. †Until November 30, 2015, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015: Edge; and 2016: Escape models for up to 48 months, or 2015: Focus BEV, C-MAX, Taurus, Flex, F-150 (excluding Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader); and 2016: F-250, F-350 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) models for up to 72 months, or 2015: Focus (excluding BEV), Fiesta; and 2016: Fusion models for up to 84 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/ 60/ 72/ 84 months, monthly payment is $520.84/ $416.67/ $347.22/ $297.62, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. 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metro SPORTS

The Rangers are the most valuable NHL franchise at $1.2 billion, according to Forbes, ahead of the Habs ($1.18B) and Leafs ($1.15B)

Reimer tweaks leg, Leafs may have to tweak lineup

NHL

Upstart goalie has a 1.68 GAA this month

The Maple Leafs got a scare Tuesday when goalie James Reimer left practice early, apparently tweaking his left leg.

Reimer, of course, has been one the NHL's hottest goalies and a big reason why the Maple Leafs have been able to accumulate so many points lately.

"It's a while to our next game," head coach Mike Babcock said. "We'll see (Wednesday) if he overreacted, underreacted. I didn't check (his status)."

Reimer has a 7-3-4 record this season, and has been the goaltender for 18 of the Leafs' 19 points. He has been a fairly incredible 6-2-3 with a 1.68 goals-against average and .949 save percentage in November. His .934 save percentage for the season places him third — one spot ahead of Carey Price — among goalies who have played more than 10 games.

The Leafs are tied for 12th in the Eastern Conference with Philadelphia, four points out of a playoff spot.

Tuesday's practice resumed with only one goalie, Jonathan Bernier, who says he will be ready to start if called upon.

"I have to approach it as a new season," said Bernier, who started the year as the Leafs' No. 1. "It's a long season. And James is playing well. I'm happy for him. He's winning. That's the important thing.

"Every day we work on small details of my game just to stay sharp for when I get the call."

Bernier is 0-7-1 this season with a subpar .895 save percentage. He has let in more than a few softies.

> **I have to start fresh when I get the start and play like a new season.**
> Jonathan Bernier

"I take the blame," Bernier said. "I haven't gotten any wins. But I don't think I was that far off from being .500. I have to start fresh when I get the start and play like a new season."

The Leafs' next game is Saturday. Bernier has been working extensively with goalie coach Steve Briere, getting out before practice early with him and staying on the ice later after morning skates.

"The bottom line is if it's not going as good as you want, you've got to fix it," Babcock said. "Confidence is the biggest thing always. You've got to earn the right to feel good about yourself by how you are in practice. He's been a good goaltender and I'm sure he will be again.

"If the opportunity comes, he's got to be ready for it."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

James Reimer, left, has helped the Leafs stay competitive this season, while Jonathan Bernier has yet to win a game. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

RAPTORS

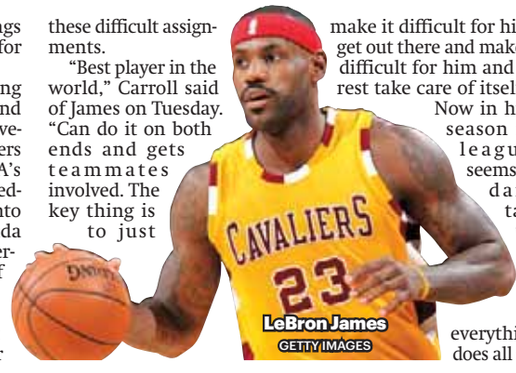
Carroll has plan for tough task of defending LeBron

Wednesday has the makings of a tough day at the office for DeMarre Carroll.

LeBron James is averaging 25.8 points, 7.1 rebounds and 6.7 assists per game. His Cleveland Cavaliers are 11-3, owners of the best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference. On Wednesday, Carroll will step onto the court at the Air Canada Centre with the entirely overwhelming assignment of stopping one of the NBA's most dominant players ever.

But Carroll didn't get this job by wavering under these difficult assignments.

"Best player in the world," Carroll said of James on Tuesday. "Can do it on both ends and gets teammates involved. The key thing is to just make it difficult for him, just get out there and make it real difficult for him and let the rest take care of itself."



LeBron James
GETTY IMAGES

Now in his 12th season in the league, it seems redundant to talk up what James does. He does everything and does all of it exceedingly well, the athletic equivalent of the straight-A student. You don't stop someone like that; you hope to limit him.

"I think first and foremost you take away with him," Carroll said. "You take away scoring, you take away from him making those easy dish passes for three-pointers, those types of things. He can do it all, so I think we just make it difficult for him and be up on him, being physical and he's not going to have the best game. He's going to score points but he's not going to have the best game."

The Cavs enter the match-up winners of their last three games. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RARE BREEDS

In the Cleveland's 117-103 win over Orlando on Monday night, James joined Oscar Robertson, the legendary "Big O," as the only players in league history to rank in the top 25 in career points and assists.

IN BRIEF

Jose Reyes pleads not guilty to abusing wife

Colorado Rockies shortstop Jose Reyes is pleading not guilty to allegations of abusing his wife at a Hawaii resort.

Maui police arrested the former Blue Jays star after an argument Oct. 31 with his wife that allegedly turned physical at the Four Seasons Resort.

Jose Reyes
GETTY IMAGES

According to a recording of the 911 call released by police, a hotel security guard reported that the woman had injuries to her left leg and scratches on her neck.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manziel drops the ball again, loses starting gig

The Browns have benched quarterback Johnny Manziel because of his off-field behaviour.

Coach Mike Pettine said Josh McCown will start Monday night's game against Baltimore in place of Manziel, who was recently given the starting job but has now been demoted to third string.

Manziel's benching comes in the wake of a video surfacing of him partying last weekend in Texas. He had promised not to bring any embarrassment to the team during its bye week, but Pettine said he was both disappointed and frustrated by Manziel's actions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Favre, Owens one step closer to Hall of Fame

Brett Favre, Terrell Owens and Alan Faneca are semi-finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility.

The group of 25 semi-finalists was announced Tuesday by the Canton, Ohio, shrine.

Other semifinalists, all of them previously eligible, include Kurt Warner, Isaac Bruce, Morten Andersen, Tony Boselli, Kevin Mawae, Tony Dungy, Marvin Harrison, Orlando Pace and John Lynch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Messi conquers Roma

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Star's first goals since injury put Catalans into knockout stage

Lionel Messi scored his first two goals after a two-month injury layoff and Luis Suarez netted a brace in a 6-1 rout of Roma on Tuesday as Barcelona advanced to the Champions League knockout rounds for a 12th consecutive season.

Suarez got Barcelona rolling at Camp Nou in the 15th minute. Three minutes later Messi scored his first goal in his second appearance since returning from a left-knee injury.

Messi netted the hosts' fifth after Suarez and Gerard Pique scored. Adriano capped the demolition before Edin Dzeko got Roma's consolation.

"Messi is the best and I feel very happy for him for his goals and for because he played the entire match," Suarez said. "We played a perfect game."

Barcelona had already qualified for the next phase before kickoff after Bayer Leverkusen was held 1-1 at BATE Borisov, but the victory moved the defending champions onto 13 points and the top spot in Group E with a game to spare.

Roma was left with five points along with Leverkusen, while BATE has four.

Messi showed no rust from his time on the sideline recovering from a ligament he tore on Sept. 26. On Saturday, he played a little more than half an hour as a second-half substitute in Barcelona's memorable 4-0 win at Real Madrid, looking threatening as ever despite not scoring. The Argentine star took little time finding the net against an overmatched Roma side that rarely left its area.

Messi's goals were his first in the Champions League this campaign (he has only made two appearances) and 78th and 79th in competition history, second only to Crisitano Ronaldo's record of 83. Suarez, meanwhile, continued his scoring streak with his ninth and tenth goals in his last six matches taking him up to 17 for the season.

Both Suarez and striker partner Neymar, who missed a late penalty, also excelled at playing a part in their team's goals with their passing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESULTS

Group E
Barcelona 6, Roma 1
BATE Bor 1, Bayer Levkn 1
Group F
Arsenal 3, Dinamo 0
Bayern Mun 4, Olympiakos 0
Group G
M'bi Tel-Aviv 0, Chelsea 4
FC Porto 0, Dynamo Kiev 2
Group H
Zenit St P 2, Valencia 0
Lyon 1, KAA Gent 2

Barcelona star Lionel Messi scores his first goal since his two-month injury lay-off and his team's second goal during the Group E match at Camp Nou in Barcelona Tuesday. DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

TUESDAY at Camp Nou

6	1
BARCELONA	ROMA

SOCCER

FIFA ethics committee want life ban for Platini

The FIFA ethics committee has requested a life ban for Michel Platini, his lawyer said Tuesday, a move that would rule the UEFA president out of the race to succeed Sepp Blatter.

A source told The Associated Press that the maximum sanction was asked for when the FIFA ethics committee investigations unit submitted its final case report. Blatter may also be expelled from world soccer over a $2 million payment of FIFA money he approved to Platini. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian Henry goes back on loan to Blackburn

Canadian international defender Doneil Henry has rejoined Blackburn Rovers on loan from West Ham United. The Ontarian is on loan to the Championship side until Jan. 3.

Henry, 22, a former Toronto FC player, made his debut for Rovers last March in a separate loan spell. He performed well but was sidelined by a serious hamstring injury two matches later. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Johnny Manziel, left, likely won't get any snaps with the Browns in the near future. JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Browns' Manziel drops the ball again

Dropped from starter to third-stringer — without playing a game.

Johnny Manziel partied his way out of the lineup during Cleveland's bye week.

Browns coach Mike Pettine benched the polarizing quarterback on Monday for his off-field behaviour, a move that could signal Manziel's days with the team are numbered.

Pettine said Josh McCown will start Monday night's game against Baltimore in place of Manziel, who was recently handed the starting job but couldn't keep it while the team had a week off.

Manziel's benching comes in the wake of a video surfacing of him holding a bottle of champagne and rapping profane lyrics last weekend in an Austin, Texas, nightclub. He had promised not to bring any embarrassment to the team during its week off, and did just that. Pettine, who has been supportive of Manziel in the past, has had enough.

> **We always say to whom much is given, much is expected, and that's true for all of our players.**
> Browns coach Mike Pettine

"Everyone in this organization wants what is best for Johnny just like we do for every player in our locker room. I'm especially disappointed in his actions and behaviour because he has been working very hard," Pettine said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rowdy Jays prospect making major noise

BASEBALL

Minor-pro Tellez turning heads with his power game

Before we get into the baseball bona fides of Blue Jays prospect Rowdy Tellez, let's first deal with his name.

For starters, is that really what's on his birth certificate?

Sadly, no. Legally, he's Ryan Tellez. But only the government calls him that. To everybody else, he's always been Rowdy.

"My grandma, like, my Dad's mom, she doesn't know my real name," Tellez says over the phone from Scottsdale, Ariz., where he was representing the Jays in the Arizona Fall League. "I'm not lying. I could ask her and she wouldn't know my real name. I've got cousins that don't know my real name."

It remains a fitting title for the beefy slugger, known for crashing riotous homers off minor-league scoreboards and light fixtures. At spring training earlier this year, the 20-year-old, left-handed-hitting first baseman was called up to big-league camp to fill in for Edwin Encarnacion in just one at-bat. He used his lone opportunity to smash a tape-measure homer off the executive offices beyond the right-field wall.

Rowdy Tellez connects in A-ball play. KYLE CASTLE/LANSING LUGNUTS

Tellez, who is listed as six-foot-four and 245 pounds, did much the same in Arizona as one of seven Jays farmhands selected for the six-week development league and showcase for Major League Baseball's top prospects. The California native hit .293/.352/.488 with four homers and 17 RBIs in 21 games in the fall league, which wrapped up on the weekend.

"We're very pleased with his performance," Jays interim general manager Tony LaCava told the Star. "We challenged him as a young player to go (to the fall league) and he has far exceeded our expectations."

4 AND 17

The number of homers and RBI Rowdy Tellez registered in 21 Arizona Fall League games.

LaCava describes Tellez as a "throwback" style of hitter. "He plays the game with a lot of naturalness," LaCava explained. "It's not a cookie-cutter swing. There's a lot of rhythm to it, much like hitters in the past."

Jays MVP Josh Donaldson also took notice of Tellez earlier this month, posting to Twitter soon after Tellez cracked a sweet-sounding, no-doubt homer into the desert sky.

"Turn on the TV just in time to see another Blue Jay bringing some rain!" Donaldson tweeted with a photo of Tellez. "I like those movements."

While he has always garnered most of his attention for his prodigious power, Tellez has been focused lately on improving his defence, coming in early every day to take 100 ground balls and 30 picks before the team's mandatory daily practice begins.

"We know he can hit," says John Tamargo, Tellez's hitting coach with the Class-A Dunedin Blue Jays and also the Jays' representative to the fall league coaching staff. "But he's working his butt off to get better on defence." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RECIPE Chicken and Rice Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We lovingly refer this kind of meal as a half-homemade dinner. Pick up a rotisserie chicken on the way home tonight and whip up a pot of this delicious, nourishing soup.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 6

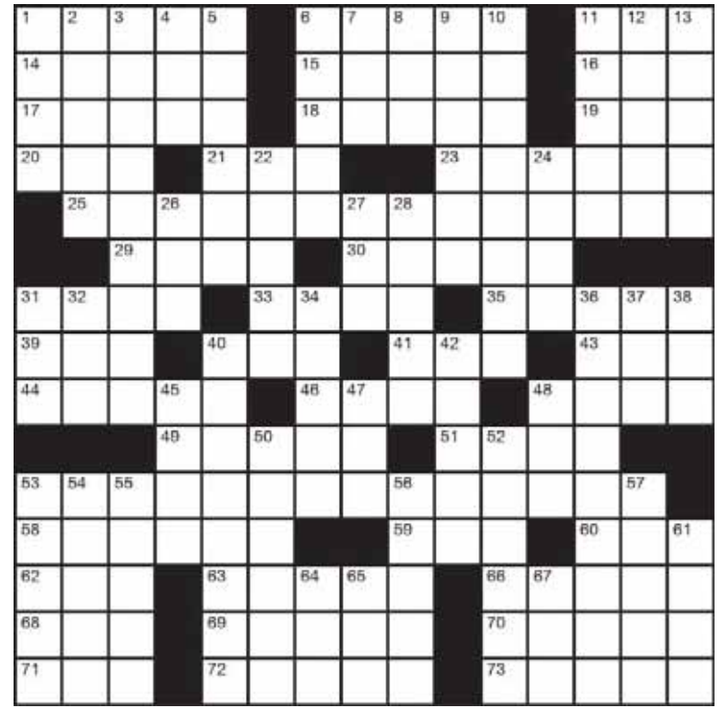
Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 carrots, peeled and diced
- 4 celery, trimmed and diced
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 6 cups low sodium chicken stock
- 3 cups leftover or rotisserie chicken, shredded
- 1 1/2 cups frozen corn (4 cobs with the corn sliced off)
- 1/2 cup fresh dill, chopped
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2 cups cooked rice
- Salt and pepper

Directions
1. Place oil in a large pot and bring to medium heat. Add onions, carrots and celery and sauté for three minutes, until the vegetables start to soften. Add the thyme and stir.
2. Pour the stock into the pot. Now add the chicken, corn, dill, lemon juice and cooked rice. Taste and add salt and pepper to taste.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Performs for pedestrians
6. La _ Grey (Grey Cup, en francais ...more at #25-Across)
11. American comedian Louis, et al.
14. _-_ (Carnivore's web purchase, say)
15. Turn _ _ new leaf
16. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
17. Edith Piaf's "_ _ en Rose"
18. City's leader
19. Freelancer's encl.
20. Soul: French
21. "Sheila" singer Tommy
23. Rick _, "Casablanca" (1942) main character
25. Sunday, November 29th, 2015... Winnipeg setting of this weekend's Grey Cup championship, _ _ Field
29. Chimney stuff
30. Saltpetre
31. Honey: French
33. Nile wader
35. Enthusiastic
39. "Gotcha!"
40. Azores island, _ Miguel
41. English cathedral city
43. Celebrity chef Ms. Drummond
44. Tomato sauce's partner
46. Roughly: 2 wds.
48. Canadian singer Ms. MacLean
49. Songbook standard: "Goodnight, _"
51. Twist, as timber
53. Canadian TV... "Crash Canyon", for one: 2 wds.
58. Peaceful
59. 'Hect' add-on
60. '_' _ for Victoria
62. Prefix to 'light'
63. Horse-_ carriage
66. Snow: French
68. Periods beyond regular hrs.
69. Start
70. Celebrity photographer Ms. Leibovitz
71. Form of stage show in Japan
72. "Swell!"
73. Covers the falcon's eyes

DOWN
1. Mr. Lugosi
2. Savoury fifth taste
3. "..._ _ that run high...": Bit of Canadian folk classic "Four Strong Winds" by Ian & Sylvia
4. And, in Athens
5. Prefix to 'phonic' or 'type'
6. Bathroom cleanser
7. Eggs, scientifically
8. One-eighty turn, slangly
9. Jeff _ (Host of "Survivor")
10. Canada's Governor General from 1904 to 1911 who, in 1909, donated the football trophy at #6-Across: 2 wds.
11. Big name in wristwatches
12. "Speed" (1994) name
13. Height-y, like a hill
22. Ancient seaport of Rome
24. Region
26. Li'l loudness
27. Clandestine maritime org.
28. Ascends
31. Blueprint
32. James _ (Smashing Pumpkins co-founder)
34. 1950s crooner Pat
36. Marvin Gaye smash: "I Heard It Through the _"
37. 'Profit' suffix
38. Stephen of movies
40. Actress Susan
42. Decrease
45. Famous magazine
47. Embarrassed
48. Three
50. Everlasting, in verse
52. Sports facilities
53. British car, _ Martin
54. Just began the hobby: 2 wds.
55. _ coffee
56. _ Domingo (Dominican Republic capital)
57. Seal
61. Dates
64. Noted botanist Mr. Gray
65. Drenched
67. Compass dir.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Ignore what others say you should be doing and do what feels right. If you listen to their advice you will get nowhere, so trust your own instincts.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The full moon makes this an important time for money, so weigh your options and don't make a choice until you are 100 per cent sure you are doing the right thing. If you act on impulse you could regret it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if the world is against you but common sense should tell you that isn't true. Try not to fall into the trap of thinking that those who disagree with you are enemies. They could be the best friends you have.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Will you be able to make something out of all of your wonderful ideas? Of course, you won't know for sure until you try — so get on with it!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Start something new, especially something of a creative nature. If you try your hand at something different today you may find you have a talent that has lain dormant for years — and it could make you rich.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The more others tell you that what you are doing is misguided the more you will go out of your way to prove them wrong. You don't need anyone's advice — you are quite capable of getting it wrong yourself!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The full moon may prevent you from getting out and about as much as you would like to today but don't let that stop you from communicating. Thanks to the telephone and the internet no-one can hide from you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need a fresh approach to a money matter that has been causing problems. You've been influenced by what others think, so ignore their advice and follow your instincts.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Sun in your birth sign at this time of year gives your confidence a boost but you still need to have a plan. Today's full moon will impress on you the urgency to get one!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Despite what your mind might be telling you no one is out to get you and you won't lose out if you take the occasional risk.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you have an urge to meddle in other people's affairs you must resist. The planets warn that even if you are successful in changing things you will have to change them back again later and it will cost you.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun in the career area of your chart urges you to change things if you are unhappy with your lot in life. However, the current full moon warns you should wait a couple of days before making your move.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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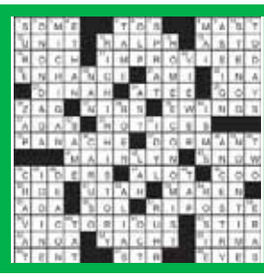

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7	5	6	9	2	4	8	1	3
8	9	3	6	1	7	2	4	5
2	1	4	5	8	3	7	9	6

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Offer(s) available on select new 2015/2016 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from November 3 to 30, 2015. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing and payments include delivery and destination fees up to $1,715, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire fee, and $100 A/C charge (where applicable). Excludes other taxes, licensing, PPSA, registration, insurance, variable dealer administration fees, fuel-fill charges up to $100, and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ¤$500 Black Friday Bonus amounts are offered on ALL new 2015/2016 Kia models and are deducted from the negotiated cash purchase, finance or lease price before taxes. Offer available from November 27 to 30, 2015 only while supplies last. Certain conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. *0% financing for up to 84 months or up to $7,000 discount available on other select 2015 models. Discount is deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price before taxes. Maximum $7,000 discount ($6,000 cash discounts and $1,000 ECO-Credit) is offered on 2015 Optima Hybrid LX (OP74AF) only. $1,000 ECO-credit is offered on all 2016 Optima Hybrid models. Certain conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **Representative Financing Example**: Financing offer available on approved credit (OAC), on a new 2016 Rio LX MT (RO541G) with a selling price of $15,864 is based on monthly payments of $177 for 84 months at 0% with a $0 down payment and first monthly payment due at finance inception. Offer also includes $1,000 discount (loan credit). Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. **‡Cash Purchase Price** for the new 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F)/2015 Optima Hybrid LX (OP74AF) is $20,964/$24,764 and includes a cash discount of $5,500/$7,000 including $6,000 cash discounts and $1,000 ECO-Credit. Dealer may sell for less. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. Cash discounts vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. ^**Representative Leasing Example**: Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC), on the 2016 Forte Sedan LX MT (F0541G)/2016 Soul LX MT (S0551G) with a selling price of $17,564/$18,944 is based on monthly payments of $148/$194 for 60/36 months at 0%/0.9%, with $0 security deposit, $1,300/$0 discounts (lease credit), $750/$1,000 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation $8,853/$6,991 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $6,661/$11,346. Lease has 16,000 km/yr allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). §Open to Canadian residents who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence who take a test drive at a Canadian Kia dealership between November 3, 2015 and January 4, 2016. 10 weekly prizes of a $3,000 itravel2000 voucher available. Plus one $100 travel voucher per eligible test drive. Limit of one entry/test drive voucher per person. Skill testing question required. Some conditions apply. Go to kia.ca for complete details. ΩLease payments must be made on a monthly or bi-weekly basis but cannot be made on a weekly basis. Weekly lease payments are for advertising purposes only. ‡Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2016 Forte SX (F0748G)/2016 Soul SX Luxury (S0758G)/2015 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748F) is $26,695/$27,495/$34,895. The 2015 Optima was awarded the 2015 Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) for model year 2015. U.S. models tested. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. The Kia Soul received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact multi-purpose vehicles in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.